FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 June Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

ALGERIA

Visit of Libyan Leader Al-Qadhdhafi Continues ..... A 1
Meets Kuwaiti Minister 28 Jun *[KUNA]* ..... A 1
Lays Wreath at Monument *[JANA]* ..... A 1
Talks With President Reopen ..... A 1

CHAD

CDR Leader Says Acheikh Ousted, Neo-GUNT Through *[AFP]* ..... B 1
Negotiations With World Bank Open 27 Jun ..... B 1

EGYPT

Sudanese State Council Chairman Arrives in Cairo ..... C 1
Mubarak Receives Al-Mirghani ..... C 1
Sudan's Al-Turabi Praises Ties, Mediation Efforts ..... C 1
'Arafat Political Adviser Arrives in Cairo ..... C 1
Consultatiave Council Discusses Nuclear Energy ..... C 1
Council Endorses Report ..... C 2
Nuclear Fuel Factory Completed; Reactor Planned *[AL-AHRAM 28 Jun]* ..... C 2
Air Defense Chief Discusses New Defense Systems ..... C 2
Columnist Views Communist Parliaments *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 26 Jun]* ..... C 4

LIBYA

Kuwait Applauds Al-Qadhdhafi's Pan-Arabism ..... D 1
USSR General Kondakov, Delegation Continue Visit ..... D 1
Tour Al-Qadhdhafi's Home ..... D 1
Kondakov Attends Banquet ..... D 1
Tours Air Defense Academy ..... D 1
Palestinian Delegation Departs, Praises Support ..... D 1

SUDAN

Government Statement on Student Demonstration ..... G 1
Egyptian Prime Minister's Visit Said Postponed ..... G 1
Officials Receive Kuwaiti Envoy, Message ..... G 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Planning Minister Reports on Meeting in Turkey ..... J 1
State Minister Returns After Delivering Messages ..... J 1

PDRY

Al-'Attas, Kuwait Minister Discuss Regional Issues ..... J 1
Last Group of Coup Detainees Released ..... J 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Cabinet Discusses Fundamentalists, Pilgrims ..... J 2

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Zayid Receives Iraqi Envoy, Saddam Message ..... J 2

IRAQ

Communique No 2,726 Notes Combat 28-29 Jun ..... K 1
President Meets Jordan's King Husayn in Baghdad *[Amman]* ..... K 1
Jordanian Chief of Staff Arrives 27 Jun ..... K 2
Meets With Counterpart ..... K 2
Spokesman Applauds Mauritania's Break With Iran ..... K 2
Nicaraguan Vice President Begins Official Visit ..... K 2
French Minister Delegate Noir Arrives 26 Jun ..... K 2
Received by Saddam Husayn ..... K 2
Meets With Minister Ramadan ..... K 2
Holds Talks With Tariq 'Aziz ..... K 2
Noir Departs 28 Jun ..... K 3
Kuwaiti Official Brings Message From Amir ..... K 3
Arrives 26 Jun *[KUNA]* ..... K 3
Meets With Tariq 'Aziz ..... K 3
Saddam Husayn Receives Message ..... K 3
Talks Begin With Algerian Minister, Delegation ..... K 3
Boudraa Received by Ramadan ..... K 3
Meets With Tariq 'Aziz ..... K 3
Delivers Message to President ..... K 3

ISRAEL

Minister 'Ezer Weizman Invited to Moscow ..... L 1
Foreign Minister Peres Pays 2-Day Visit to FRG *[cross-reference]* ..... L 1
Peres Reiterates Claim of PRC Contacts in Paris ..... L 1
Report on Envoys' 'Conversation' ..... L 1
Paper on Tamir 'Secret Meetings' *[HADASHOT 30 Jun]* ..... L 1
Israelis Helping PRC Set Up Diamond Industry *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jun]* ..... L 2
MA'ARIV Commentator Views U.S. Overture to Syria *[29 Jun]* ..... L 2
Shamir on Rabin Trip, International Conference ..... L 3
Tehiya Issues Ultimatum on Settlements, Election ..... L 3
Development in South Lebanon Infrastructure Viewed ..... L 3
Syrians Plan To Stem Al-Yarmuk River Flow ..... L 3
Project Threatens Jordan ..... L 5
'Outraged' Mayors To Fight West Bank Water Plan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 28 Jun]* ..... L 5
Plan To 'Ease' Water Shortage ..... L 6
Study Shows Growth in Economic Ties With Egypt *[HA'ARETZ 29 Jun]* ..... L 6

JORDAN

King Husayn Leaves on 'Working' Visit to Iraq ..... M 1
King Husayn, Delegation Return From Turkey ..... M 1
Egypt's Usamah al-Baz Makes Visit; To Hold Talks *[Cairo MENA]* ..... M 1
Arrives 29 Jun ..... M 1
Meets With King Husayn ..... M 1
Dudin Addresses Conference on Palestinian Affairs ..... M 1
Minister Praises Mauritania's Break With Iran *[Baghdad INA]* ..... M 2
Paper Denounces 'Partition Scheme' in Lebanon *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Jun]* ..... M 2

LEBANON

Paper Says French Hostages To Be Freed 'Very Soon' *[Abu Dhabi WAM]* ..... N 1
Shi'ite Source Says Two Hostages Taken to Iran *[Monte Carlo]* ..... N 1
Hizballah Criticizes 'Anti-Kidnapping Statements' *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Al-Jumayyil Reportedly Met Secretly With Bendjedid *[Kuwait KUNA]* ..... N 1
Al-Jumayyil To Meet With Saudi Envoy 'Soon' *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Kuwaiti Amir *[VOL]* ..... N 1

AFGHANISTAN

TANJUG Cites Najibullah on Cease-Fire 'Extension' ..... P 1
BAKHTAR Reports Najibullah News Conference 28 Jun ..... P 1
National Reconciliation Commission Resolution ..... P 2
Revolutionary Council Views Draft Law on Parties ..... P 3
Security Forces Seize Ammunition, Weapons ..... P 3

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Reportedly Paralyzed by 12-Hour Strike *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
New Import-Export Policy Announced 29 Jun ..... Q 1

INDIA

Gandhi on Bofors Scandal, Punjab, Other Issues *[INDIA TODAY 30 Jun]* ..... R 1
Gandhi Answers Questions Posed by Correspondents ..... R 6
Outlines USSR Visit Schedule ..... R 6
Discusses PRC Border Issue ..... R 7
Protest Lodged With Bangladesh Over Demonstration ..... R 7

IRAN

Pipeline Bypassing Gulf Being Built 'Secretly' *[AFP]* ..... S 1
Prime Minister Attacks U.S. Role in Gulf ..... S 1
Envoy to UN Views Public Opinion Pressure on U.S. ..... S 2
Commentary Warns U.S. Not To Interfere in Gulf ..... S 2
Supreme Court President, Judiciary Meet Khomeyni ..... S 3
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Liberation of Iraq ..... S 3
KEYHAN Cited on Extension of Military Service *[TANJUG]* ..... S 3
Velayati Interviewed Before Leaving for Vienna ..... S 3
Foreign Minister Velayati Pays 3-Day Visit to Austria ..... S 4
Oil Minister Comments on Recent OPEC Conference ..... S 4
Reportage on Nicaraguan Parliament President Visit ..... S 4
Arrives in Tehran ..... S 4
Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani ..... S 5
Majlis Speaker on Nunez Visit ..... S 5
Reportage on Recent Operations Against Iraq ..... S 6
Naval Maneuvers in Gulf ..... S 6
Engineering Units on Abu Musa ..... S 6
Operations in Northern Iraq ..... S 6
Iraqi Garrison Destroyed ..... S 6
Sayyid-Sadiq Bases Destroyed ..... S 6
Garrison Near Sayyid Sadiq Hit ..... S 6
Peshmerga in Halabjah ..... S 7
Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed ..... S 7
Iraqi Chemical Attack ..... S 7
Communique No 2,882 ..... S 7

PAKISTAN

MRD Approves Convening All Parties Conference *[THE MUSLIM 22 Jun]* ..... V 1
'Speculation' Arises From U.S. General's Visit *[THE MUSLIM 19 Jun]* ..... V 2

30 June Middle East and South Asia Review

LD301315 [Editorial Report]

Al-Qadhdhafi on Unity With Algeria

Libya has "immense" confidence in Algeria's commitment to the unity project and wants Algeria to have the "honor" of drawing up the agreement, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told the Algerian National People's Assembly in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television. "So please draft the agreement, draft the articles, make the arrangements, plan the institutions, and we will sign," he said. Asserting that it is "incorrect" to say that Algeria is unenthusiastic about Arab unity, Al-Qadhdhafi said he believes the Algerian leaders are now firm in their determination to work for union between Algeria and Libya as a first step toward wider Arab unity. He added that he had come to Algeria to "emphasize to the world that what has been announced in previous days is a reality."

The Libyan leader viewed Arab unity as a necessity in an age when small countries are "trampled underfoot" by superpowers and major international groupings, and he stressed that small countries must cling together to face up to "imperialist" powers. "Enemies" will conspire against the unity project through telling lies and using "any sick-mided person" to sabotage the Algerian-Libyan relationship, he warned.

Col al-Qadhdhafi held a second round of talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid before addressing the People's Assembly, Algiers radio noted. Speaker Rabah Bitat also spoke to the Assembly, stressing Algeria's support for "final" and "global" Arab union, the radio said.

Lebanon

Despite Hizballah's denial of involvement in kidnappings, a Hizballah spokesman cited by Voice of Lebanon radio stressed that the Lebanese have the right to confront the United States, France, and Israel in the manner they deem fit, and he criticized those whose denunciations of kidnapping are "more numerous" than their condemnations of Israel. The Hizballah statement follows recent Syrian criticisms of kidnapping. In another indication of tension between Syria and Hizballah, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted AFP reports that Syria has strengthened its forces near Hizballah and Iranian positions in the Al-Biqa' Valley and has begun close surveillance of the Muslim extremist groups in the area. The Syrian measures include cancelling permits for the fundamentalists to carry arms and closely searching Hizballah vehicles. Syrian checkpoints are also continuing to prevent "suspect" elements from leaving the southern suburb of Beirut, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Syrian Foreign Relations

With Iraq — President Hafiz al-Asad will meet publicly with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordan's King Husayn to announce a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq "before 10 July," the UAE paper *Al-Bayan* predicted in an article cited by QNA.

With Turkey — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is to visit Syria for 3 days starting 5 July to discuss border security with his Syrian counterpart, according to ANATOLIA. Talks are to focus on the 20 June massacre of 30 Turkish villagers by Kurdish separatists.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Fighting in North — An Iranian communique cited by IRNA said Iranian antiaircraft fire downed an Iraqi warplane in the Panjwin operational theater 29 June. Elsewhere in the north, Iraqi forces in the "Nasr-5" operational theater regrouped for a counterattack but were forced to flee, leaving behind "hundreds" of dead and wounded, Tehran radio reported. Iranian forces are "consolidating" their hold in the region, the radio noted.

Gulf Deployments — The first "combat engineering" battalions were deployed on Abu Musa Island, Tehran radio noted. The battalion has begun building earthworks and defense fortifications on the region's islands.

Iran

A visit by the Nicaraguan National Assembly president was a "good opportunity" to become better informed about the situation in that country, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in remarks cited by Tehran radio. The countries have in common conflict with the United States, and talks on this issue yielded "good results." The two sides agreed to expand economic, political, and cultural cooperation and to increase the exchange of visits with each other.

PDRY

Eighty people, the last of those held in connection with the January 1986 disturbances, were released from detention in accordance with a Political Bureau decision, Aden radio noted.

Visit of Libyan Leader Al-Qadhdhafi Continues

Meets Kuwaiti Minister 28 Jun

LD291319 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, met yesterday with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at his Algiers residence.

Al-Rashid told KUNA that he gave Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message from his brother, his highness the amir, on the Gulf situation and new developments in the region. He also discussed efforts aimed at ending the Iran-Iraq war, which is exhausting the Muslims and their resources. He added that the message stemmed from the concept of consultation and an exchange of views among brothers on everything concerning the common Arab interest and the Arab situation in general.

Al-Rashid said that he had delivered to the Libyan leader greetings and good wishes from his brother, his highness the amir. He explained all the new developments in the Gulf region and Kuwait's actions to exercise its natural right to protect the shipping of its oil to the outside world. Al-Rashid also stated that he had found in Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a full understanding of Kuwait's stand concerning recent regional developments. Col Al-Qadhdhafi stressed his desire for security and stability, which could only be achieved by ending the Iran-Iraq war. Al-Rashid added that he had also sensed the Libyan leader's trust in Kuwait's policy and Al-Qadhdhafi's support for it due to its consistency and wisdom.

Lays Wreath at Monument

LD292051 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Algiers, Al-Sayf [June] 29, (JANA) — This morning the leader of the revolution placed a wreath of flowers on the martyr monument in Algiers the capital.

The leader read the "opening" Surah [a Koranic chapter] on the spurs of the heroic Algerian people's martyrs who voluntarily had given their lives to liberate Algeria and the whole Arab nation. They had given the live example of an armed people that can not be defeated. They have established glory and pride for Algeria and the whole Arab nation giving hope to small nations of owning the chance to establish victory over any enemy no matter how strong it is.

In the visitors' book, the leader wrote:

"In the name of Allah the merciful and the compassionate. "From believers there are those who pledged to Allah, some had died and others await, but never budged from their pledges'. [quotation marks as received]

By Allah's mercy, Algeria's sacrifices in its dearest of sons had never been in vain. Yonder are the freedom fighters and behind them stand the great heroic people crowning that courageous heroic struggle with the unity work to alter the map the colonialists had drawn and who said that Algeria is part of France.

France had lied and Algeria and its martyrs had been truthful. Here is Algeria Arab and Muslim and works toward the unity of its nation which she belongs to.

The revolutionary struggle continues [words indistinct] 29 Al-Sayf month 1987 AD.

Accompanying the leader in this visit were Mohamed Abdelghani the member of the Political Bureau minister of state at the presidency and Algeria's ambassador to Great Jamahiriya. Also accompanying the leader were Colonel Mustafa Al-Kharrubi the inspector-general of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau and the Secretary of the People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria.

Talks With President Reopen

LD292206 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpts] There was a second round of talks today between the leader of the Libyan revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid in the presence of members of the two sides' delegations. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi then visited the National People's Assembly to address its members. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the speaker of the National People's Assembly, Mr Rabah Bitat, recalled that Algeria's aim is to succeed in the union we aspire to and that we want to be final. Its principle will be the wishes of the peoples and its aim global Arab union. [passage omitted]

CDR Leader Says Acheikh Ousted, Neo-GUNT Through

AB291900 Paris AFP in French 1727 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jun (AFP) — Rakhis Manani, military leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR — Chadian opposition movement), said in Algiers today that "the neo-GUNT no longer exists," adding that Acheikh ibn Oumar (chairman of the neo-GUNT), has been ousted from his post of CDR secretary general. The neo-GUNT was formed after GUNT chairman Goukouni Oueddei was put under house arrest in Tripoli in October 1986 by members of the Chadian opposition supported by Libya. Libya's leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, is currently in Algiers.

Mr Manani said Acheikh ibn Oumar's dismissal took place on 27 June in Tripoli at a meeting of the organization's CDR cadres, military delegates, and guerrilla fighters. Acheikh ibn Oumar, who is currently on a West African tour, did not attend this meeting. Mr Manani explained that a 15-member management committee to which he belongs has been set up to run the CDR's affairs. He also noted that a congress for the organization will be held in less than 1 year's time.

According to Mr Manani, Acheikh ibn Oumar was ousted due to "his inability to organize and run the CDR" and "because he created a rift between the original GUNT's member factions," thus "making it possible for Hissein Habre to reconquer the north." Mr Manani, who has met with Goukouni Oueddei on several occasions in Algiers, where he has resided since February 1987, hopes that the Chadian opposition will unite "either to make peace or war" with the Ndjamena government.

The CDR's new objective is to "approach other factions, meaning to encourage the FAP, NDLR, Goukouni Oueddei's Patriotic Armed Forces, (Abba Said's) First Army, and (Moussa Madella's) Western Armed Forces [Forces Armees Occidentales] to unite," he added.

Negotiations With World Bank Open 27 Jun

AB272037 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Negotiations officially began this morning between the Chadian Government and the World Bank at the Ministry of Planning's meeting hall. Soumaila Mahamat, minister delegate at the presidency for planning, opened the meeting in the presence of principal secretaries of several ministerial departments, as well as World Bank and United Nations Development Program representatives.

After opening this meeting, which seeks to obtain funds for an important program of economic and financial reform in Chad's administration, Soumaila Mahamat outlined major areas to be affected by the administrative reforms. He then provided details on the project. Here is Minister Soumaila Mohamat:

[Begin recording] (?The first loan) of $9.8 million from the International Development Agency and a $3 million grant from the Swiss Government will be used to establish a technical assistance fund for developing [words indistinct] for the immediate purchase of equipment costing a total of $4 million. Second, the cost of building plans and constructing new offices for the Ministries of Planning and Finance, as well as buying equipment, is currently estimated at $4.1 million. Third, short- and long-term training courses in basic practical subjects related to economic and financial management are provided for in the project at a cost of $600,000. Finally, a population census will be planned within the framework of the project at a cost of $3 million.

I would like to take the opportunity here, on behalf of the government, to thank the World Bank for this loan, which has been granted at a very important moment in our administration's lifetime. Our government has the will for reform but lacks the means to achieve it. I would also like to thank the Swiss Government for its $3 million grant. [end recording]

Sudanese State Council Chairman Arrives in Cairo
NC291829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani arrived in Cairo at 1700 today for a 3-day visit.

Al-Mirghani was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Ma'mun Sinadah, Sudanese minister of culture and information; Sudanese Ambassador Al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif; and members of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo.

Upon arrival, Al-Mirghani revealed that he will meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to review several important issues that concern the two brotherly countries and the people of the Nile Valley.

The Sudanese State Council chairman said that we are always ready to consult with President Mubarak on issues pertaining to the Arab and African world, as well as to developments in the Arab arena. He emphasized that both sides also are very interested in bolstering and consolidating the distinguished relations between the people of the Nile Valley.

Referring to Sudan's official stand on the two countries' common defense pact, Al-Mirghani expressed his belief that the reciprocal commitment between Egypt and Sudan is a fact that does not require a written agreement. He stressed that Egypt's and Sudan's security are indivisible.

In response to a question on the date of the constitutional conference to solve the issue of the south and Sudan's economic problem, he said that the convocation will be held as soon as possible.

Regarding ways to implement the Egyptian-Sudanese Brotherhood Charter, Al-Mirghani disclosed that he will discuss this topic with President Husni Mubarak and added that its implementation will begin as quickly as possible.

Al-Mirghani was asked about the reasons behind Unionist Party member 'Abdallah Yasin's resignation from the State Council, and if there are any disputes within the party. He replied that as a head of state he would not comment on party affairs. However, he asserted that there are no conflicts within the Unionist Party and that the reasons for Yasin's resignation are probably personal. Al-Mirghani also described Yasin as a brother and a friend to whom he is linked by cordial and family ties. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Al-Mirghani
NC291936 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and his wife at the Presidency Headquarters in Heliopolis this evening.

President Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the Sudanese guest and his wife. Attending the banquet were Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and his wife; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and his wife; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his wife: and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

Sudan's Al-Turabi Praises Ties, Mediation Efforts
NC291806 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — The leader of Sudan's National Islamic Front today hailed the historic and everlasting Egyptian-Sudanese relations, asserting that these ties are significant for Africa and the region. He added that it is necessary that additional steps be taken for further unity between the two countries.

Referring to Sudan's south, Dr Hasan Al-Turabi said that this is an issue with international dimensions, as well as of interest to Egypt. He also praised Egypt's efforts to mediate between Sudan and Ethiopia. Al-Turabi stressed that the impact of the Brotherhood Charter must be felt in all domains, particularly in the economic, commercial, and political spheres.

'Arafat Political Adviser Arrives in Cairo
NC291947 Cairo MENA in English 1935 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, June 29 (MENA) — Hani Al-Hasan, political advisor to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and Fatah Central Committee member, arrived here tonight from Tunis.

During his visit to Cairo, Al-Hasan will be meeting with a number of Egyptian officials.

Consultative Council Discusses Nuclear Energy
NC281812 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA) — The Consultative Council has emphasized that while Egypt believes in peace, it is also aware that peace would only be fragile without a force to safeguard it. This force need not be military; it could be political, scientific, technological, or social. This was stated in the initial report prepared by an ad hoc committee formed by the Consultative Council and headed by member Farkhurdah Hasan to study the Egyptian nuclear program.

The report says in part that the concept of a nuclear program should not be confined to aspects of energy production and nuclear power plant construction. It is a multifaceted national issue with strategic, scientific, academic, and economic dimensions. Additional areas under consideration include research, development, and nuclear power plant safety.

The report recommends comprehensive planning and better training and education as a means to obtain, absorb, and adapt modern technology. It suggests that the planning of industrial

and construction activities be improved concomitant with modern technology.

The report also underlines the importance of self-reliance as a means of coping with advanced technology and proposes setting up certain state-of-the-art industries. The report also calls for the utilization of Egyptian expertise in regional nuclear energy development to reverse the current situation wherein regional markets are cultivated solely by foreign industrial corporations.

The report mentions that the Egyptian nuclear program was launched in 1955. By 1961 improvements were introduced to the experimental reactor and some medical equipment using radiation was manufactured. However, the production of radioactive isotopes eventually stumbled when second-generation nuclear reactors did not arrive in Egypt, as planned, in 1964. Millions in hard currency could have been saved if radioactive isotopes were manufactured in Egypt rather than imported, the report adds.

Following the presentation of this report, the Consultative Council began a wide-ranging discussion of the issue. Many of its members stressed that Egypt has hundreds of capable scientists in this field and that the country's ability to run nuclear reactors has been proved, as in the case of the Inshas reactor, whose hypothetical life was extended due to the alterations Egyptian scientists introduced.

Consultative Council members also discussed the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the fields of medicine, industry, agricuiture, and oil production.

The members called for applying modern technology and adapting it to national needs. They maintained that Egypt is no less capable than other Third World countries which have built nuclear power plants and that there should be no fear associated with the commencement of such endeavors.

Some members proposed that a scientific committee of information specialists be established to inform the public of the importance of nuclear energy and to assure them that risks linked to nuclear-power plants can be avoided.

Council Endorses Report

NC291845 Cairo MENA in English 1730 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — Minister of Electricity and Energy Mahir Abazah affirmed today that the Egyptian nuclear programme would provide, if carried out, the cheapest kind of power production required for implementing all projects of development plans, adding that the government in collaboration with international agency of nuclear safety was keen that the Egyptian nuclear programme have the highest rate of nuclear safety in the new nuclear stations intended to be set up through the programme.

The minister said that the choice of Al-Dab'ah area comes according to criteria and studies covering all Egyptian areas, except Sinai on military grounds, so as to choose the most suitable site.

He asserted that the Israeli nuclear reactor in Dimona is nearer to the delta governorates more than all Al-Dab'ah area, which means that the perils of nuclear radioactive materials would come from Israel rather than from Al-Dab'ah.

He said that the programme will depend on pure Egyptian expertise in the field of nuclear power in addition to foreign expertise of friendly countries which preceded us in the field.

The minister of electricity added that planning for the use of nuclear energy should not be at the expense of the use of conventional energy and a preference should be made between the available alternatives for electric power generating.

The minister also said that the kw/h cost of electricity produced by nuclear power stations is much less than that produced by coal-run power stations.

The nuclear power, Abazah said, is much less in danger than all alternatives contrary to what has been said since the Chernobyl accident which had no effect on the setting up of new nuclear power stations, and 21 nuclear power stations have been set up following the accident.

The minister also pointed out that Egypt will not be exposed to the problem of getting rid of the waste, in case the Egytian nuclear power programme is implemented and that coordination between the Ministry of Electricity and the Arab Organization for Industrialization has been made concerning the manufacture of some nuclear reactor components here.

The Shura [Consultative] Council approved the special committee's report on the nuclear energy programme.

Nuclear Fuel Factory Completed; Reactor Planned

JN291819 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Minister of Electricity and Energy Eng Mahir Abazah has said that the Atomic Energy Commission has completed an experimental nuclear fuel factory in Inshas, which will use the natural uranium extracted from mines discovered in the Red Sea and the eastern desert. This will serve as the nucleus for a main factory that will mark the beginning of Egypt's entry into the nuclear program. Moreover, the old research reactor in Inshas has been modernized and there are currently steps to conclude a deal for a new 20-megawatt reactor. The minister added that the first industrial electronic accelerator in the Middle East aimed at introducing modern technology is now operational. The accelerator cost $5 million and was a gift from the United Nations. It will be used to improve the specifications of products such as electrical cables, hospital supplies, wood, and rubber.

Air Defense Chief Discusses New Defense Systems

NC271628 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA) — Lieutenant General 'Adil Khalil, commander of the Air Defense Forces, has disclosed that the first shipment of automatic command and control system

equipment will arrive in Egypt by the end of this year and that this equipment will then be phased into operation.

In a news conference held today on the occasion of Defense Day, Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil said that a model of the Egyptian automatic command and control system will be diaplayed at an exhibition at the Air Defense College in Alexandria on Tuesday. He explained that this model will illustrate how various equipment and systems, which are located far apart from one another, can be automatically linked and integrated into one system to obtain real-time information on enemy targets. Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil added: Although the automatic command and control system's components will not arrive until the end of this year, this does not mean that the Egyptian E2-C early warning aircraft will be unable to operate until then. He noted that these aircraft have been flown since they first arrived in Egypt, affirming that they can be utilized before the integrated automatic command and control system becomes fully operational. Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil also announced that the first shipment of the U.S. Chaparral air defense missiles will arrive on 1 October, noting that Egyptian technical crews are already receiving training on these missiles so that they can be put into operation immediately after arrival. The air defense commander pointed out that Egypt has modified the Chaparral's firing control equipment, adding that the United States has copied these modifications for use in the U.S. Army.

Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil asserted that the experiment and test phase of the Egyptian air defense system "Sinai-23" is over, adding that the final design has been approved and the next stage is production. He said: The production lines of the Egyptian system, which combines the 23-mm double-barrel mounted gun and the Hawkeye launcher equipped with a radar-controlled firing system, are now being prepared. The entire system will be displayed at the defense exhibition in Cairo in November. The air defense commander stated that the final tests on the Egyptian Hawkeye missiles have been completed and that with their production, which will begin in the near future, they will replace the Sam-7's.

Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil also disclosed that Egypt has succeeded in manufacturing the U.S. TPS-63 radar, saying: In the very near future, we will have the first Egyptian-built radar system.

He noted that a number of countries, including Spain, have concluded contracts on the Amun defense system, the Egyptian version of the Skyguard air defense system. A number of other countries, he added, are negotiating the purchase of these systems with the manufacturing companies. He explained that Egypt obtains a share of ownership when the system is sold to another country.

Lt Gen Khalil also noted that Egypt has modified the 23-mm gun by adding electronic vision guidance equipment. This equipment depends on lasers to determine the distance to the target and is quite accurate in guidance and hitting its target. It can also be linked to a preliminary target guidance radar system. Lt Gen Khalil said that the introduction of this system, which was developed using Egyptian ideas and foreign expertise, restores some importance to anti-aircraft artillery, which has become as capable as missiles, if not more so. The artillery system, he added, is very accurate. It is also cost-efficient when compared with air defense missiles. He explained further that the cost of every 100 artillery rounds is less than one-thousandth of the cost of a single missile.

The air defense commander added that the new system is versatile in many theaters of operation and is uncomplicated, thus making it easier to train technical teams. This system again makes anti-aircraft artillery one of the major air defense weapons.

Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil pointed out that the 30 June exhibition will include samples of modern air defense equipment, which were modified and developed by officers and engineers in the Air Defense Forces, as well as the latest foreign-made equipment for use in electronic warfare, including obstruction and jamming systems, anti-interference systems to use against hostile aircraft, and electronic systems to obstruct and jam air defense equipment.

He said Egypt that has managed to further develop Eastern- and Western-made missiles already in service, pointing out that a number of modifications were made on the Eastern-made ones to enhance their maneuverability. He added that certain types of missiles, originally phased out, have been mounted on different types of launchers to reuse them. A number of modifications, he stated, were introduced in the electronic circuits of the missile guidance and radar stations to develop their capabilities vis-a-vis electronic warfare and obstructing and jamming systems. Lt Gen 'Adil Khalil pointed out that other equipment was modified as well; for example, specially designed missile towing vehicles were substituted for the phased-out Eastern-made ones.

He asserted that Egypt's airspace has not been violated from any direction, noting that the two Libyan planes that recently landed in Egypt had been monitored before they entered Egyptian airspace. He pointed out that certain restrictions and principles make it incumbent on us not to destroy planes whose occupants request asylum, particularly those planes piloted by Arabs. At the same time, he added, we must take all the necessary protective and security measures before giving them permission to land.

Lt Gen Khalil explained that the Air Defense branch does not discriminate between civilian and noncivilian planes in case of an airspace violation, but there is an Egyptian identification system for hostile aircraft.

He noted that Egypt leaves the door open for the citizens of Arab countries to train at its institutes, noting that many Arab students have studied in Egyptian Air Defense schools, especially after Eastern-made defense missile systems were introduced in a number of Arab countries. He added that many Egyptian technicians lecture in the institutes of other Arab countries.

Touching on air defense training techniques, Khalil asserted that Egypt keeps abreast of the latest developments in the air defense field by employing the most modern training equipment, which simulates the firing of missiles at both visible and invisible targets under interference by the enemy. This training is in addition to actually flying in practice air raids.

He also referred to the new development in the Air Defense Academy; that is, that graduates are granted a BS in engineering.

which is recognized by Alexandria University. The Engineers Association, he added, has agreed to grant membership to the Academy's graduates in order to enable them to work in the civilian sector after they finish their military service.

Columnist Views Communist Parliaments

JN290636 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 87 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Haywan]

[Text] They deceived you when they said that there were parliaments in communist countries. The truth is that parliaments in communist countries are only members chosen by the communist party itself who act in accordance with the party's instructions, oppose on request, always approve, are obedient, and never have a viewpoint of their own. This is because they only mirror the party's viewpoints and do not express the people's aspirations. They merely communicate the party's instructions to the people and justify the party's mistakes to them.

The USSR parliamentary delegation which recently visited Egypt does not represent the Soviet people. Its members are only employees on the payroll of the CPSU, who follow its instructions. Those who do not believe this have only to go back to 'Abd al-Nasir's parliaments because they were of the same type.

They deceived you when they said that some communist countries apply the principle of the plurality of parties, such as Poland and the GDR. The truth is that the communist party rules alone and that the other parties are part of the stage setting. If an opposition party ever harbors the notion of assuming power, this party will be brought to trial on charges of seeking to overthrow the regime.

They deceived you when they said that the USSR will finance the development plan without any political conditions in exchange or with loans carrying rates of interest less than those offered by the free world countries. We passed through such an experience in 1958 when Egypt formulated an ambitious plan for industrialization. The free world's offers were costly and their interest rates prohibitive. The USSR offered easy terms and conditions. This was only the first step and was followed by a spate of demands. The Soviets interfered in everything, starting with the appointment of editors in chief and ending with that of ministers.

Dr Yahya al-Jamal, former NPUG deputy leader and NDP representative in the People's Assembly, has stated that 80 percent of the Arab Socailist Union's organizations and 50 percent of the vanguard Nasirite Party members are now in the NDP. He told this to *Rose al-Yusuf* this week. We have been saying the same thing for over a year but no one believed us. Will you believe Dr al-Jamal?

New newspapers appear daily to vent the people's feelings. There is no fear from such a phenomenon because the reader remains the final judge as he pays the price of these papers. Distribution figures indicate the people's inclinations and whether they believe what they read in these papers.

I was hoping Khalid Muhyi al-Din would enter the People's Assembly through election or nomination because he is educated and has broad experience. His joining the People's Assembly will enrich democracy. However, many of his party's stands need to be amended such as thoseon the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Al-Qadhdhafi, and Arab communists. There is a big difference between promoting socialism and defending all the communists in the world!

Kuwait Applauds Al-Qadhdhafi's Pan-Arabism

LD261013 Tripoli JANA in English 0929 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, Al-Sayf [June] 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, ruler of Kuwait and Shaykh Sa'd al-Sabah, the crown prince, have lauded the brave pan-Arab and international stances assumed by the leader of the revolution.

The above greetings have been conveyed at a meeting held between the secretary of the mission of Great Al-Jamahiriyah in Kuwait and the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs.

At this meeting, the brotherly relations between the Arab people of the two countries have been surveyed, apart from the development of the Arab conditions in the region.

USSR General Kondakov, Delegation Continue Visit

Tour Al-Qadhdhafi's House

LD241746 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 24 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, 24 June (JANA) — Lieutenant General Yevgeniy Kondakov, chief of the 10th Directorate of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff, and the delegation accompanying him this afternoon laid a wreath at the martyrs' tombs of the unsuccessful, barbaric U.S.-NATO attack against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

They also visited the home of the brother leader of the revolution, where they saw the effects of the barbaric, unsuccessful U.S.-Atlantic aggression.

In a statement he wrote in the visitors' book, Lt Gen Kondakov strongly condemned this aggression and reiterated that the Soviet Union stands [word indistinct] on the side of the Great Jamahiriyah people in their firm struggle against imperialist schemes hatched by U.S. imperialism, which is hostile to the peoples.

Kondakov Attends Banquet

LD250938 Tripoli JANA in English 0901 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 25, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — A dinner banquet was given yesterday to General Kondakov, chairman of the Tenth General Administration [Directorate] under the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Mr Kondakov and his accompanying delegation are currently on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Present at the banquet were the chiefs of staff and a number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

Tours Air Defense Academy

LD252218 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Text] Lieutenant General Kondakov, head of the 10th Directorate of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff, and the delegation accompanying him visited the Air Defense Academy in Misratah. The delegation toured the academy's various departments while listening to elaborate explanations by the Academy's commander and teachers on these departments, branches, and the methods of training that students receive. During this tour, which was also taken by the Air Defense Forces' chief of staff, the visiting delegation inspected the Academy's exhibition, which includes photographs, items, and pictures that embody the great revolutionary achievements and the civilized changes accomplished by the Great al-Fatih revolution in various fields.

This exhibition also depicts the Academy's different activities. Lt Gen Kondakov, head of the 10th Directorate of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff, noted in the visitors' book his great admiration for the Academy's practical and theoretical departments.

The Air Defense Forces chief of staff gave a dinner banquet in honor of Lt Gen Kondakov, head of the 10th Directorate of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff, and his accompanying delegation.

Palestinian Delegation Departs, Praises Support

LD242235 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jun 87

[Text] The secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, Brother Tal'at Ya'qub, and his accompanying delegation departed Tripoli this evening. Brother Tal'at Ya'qub praised the great amount of attention given by the brother leader of the revolution to the Palestinian issue.

In a statement before his departure, Tal'at Ya'qub affirmed the Palestinian Arab people's pride in the great Al-Fatih revolution's unchanging stand toward the central issue of the Arab people. He also stressed that the great Al-Fatih revolution's support for the Palestinian Arab people make us even more determined to step up the armed struggle inside the occupied land.

Government Statement on Student Demonstration

EA291922 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers has issued the following statement concerning this morning's student demonstration at Cairo University, Khartoum Branch:

The prime minister had already informed the Constituent Assembly of the lists of students who had joined the University of Cairo, Khartoum Branch. The government's view was conveyed in a direct letter to the Khartoum branch's principal [words indistinct] the Student Union regarding the step which had been taken.

The General Secretariat told the delegation that the prime minister still awaited a reply to the letter sent to the university principal. Despite all this, the university students still engaged in a demonstration that had not been authorized by the relevant authorities. This occurred despite the students' awareness of a previous ruling by the local authorities banning demonstrations due to the known security situation in southern Sudan.

As a result of today's student demonstration and disagreements with policemen, there were various injuries: 3 students and 30 policemen were wounded, but no one was killed.

The necessary investigation into the matter will be conducted.

The General Secretariat considers it necessary to refer to the attention paid by this government to higher education [word indistinct]. A national committee was formed to examine issues of higher education from different viewpoints. It made certain recommendations that were approved by the Council of Ministers and have now become policy, and the necessary steps have been taken to implement them.

Due to its concern for the citizens' lives and property, the government wishes to stress that it will not permit anarchy or vigilantism. The government appeals to our sons, the students, to be patient and to obey the law, thus ensuring the progress of our people's democratic march and supporting the hopes of our fledgling experiment.

Egyptian Prime Minister's Visit Said Postponed

EA271043 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26th June — The visit of the Egyptian Prime Minister, 'Atif Sidqi, to the Sudan has been postponed, press reports published here today said.

The reports quoted informed sources as saying that the postponement of the visit was because the committee set up to prepare [words indistinct] their work. The reports were published by the independent daily *"Al-Ayam"* [name as received] today.

The visit was scheduled to take place at the beginning of next July. However, no new date for the visit was given.

Officials Receive Kuwaiti Envoy, Message

JN281843 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jun (SUNA) — Acting State Council Chairman Idris al-Banna and State Council member Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik today received a written message from Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah addressed to the chairman and members of the council. The message was delivered by the Kuwaiti amir's private envoy, 'Abd al-Rahman Salim. The envoy declared that the message concerns current developments in the Arab Gulf and matters related to hiring foreign vessels to ship Kuwaiti oil to world markets. He noted that this is a natural event.

Indicating that the GCC countries are united, he stressed that the presence of Dir' al-Jazirah Forces in Kuwait as mentioned in the GCC foreign ministers' recent statement in Jeddah provides evidence of cohesion among GCC countries.

KUWAIT

Planning Minister Reports on Meeting in Turkey

LD291812 Kuwait KUNA in English 1528 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 29 (KUNA) — Planning Minister Muhammad Sulayman Sayyed 'Ali returned here Monday after delivering a message from H.H. the Amir to Turkish President Kenan Evren.

He told KUNA on arrival back home that he explained to the president of Turkey during a meeting this morning in Ankara the goal of his visit and the Kuwaiti stand toward developments of the Iraq-Iran war and its repercussions on the northern area of the Gulf in particular and the Gulf in general.

The minister said that he elaborated on Kuwait's stance toward chartering oil tankers and registering them in the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Evren affirmed Turkey's position [words indistinct] and the necessity of terminating the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible, Sayyed 'Ali Said.

The Turkish head of state said that his country constantly urged all concerned parties that expanding the armed dispute is not in interest of the regional countries, the minister noted.

He quoted the Turkish president as saying "We ask them to show self-restraint and we respect Kuwait's stands and its attempts to exercise restraint."

The planning minister's visit to Turkey falls in line with a Kuwaiti diplomatic drive to brief leaders of Arab and friendly countries on development of events in the Arab Gulf region. Sayyed 'Ali arrived in Turkey yesterday.

State Minister Returns After Delivering Messages

LD291947 Kuwait KUNA in English 1712 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Kuwait, June 29 (KUNA) — Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abdal-'Aziz al-Rashid returned home Monday following a tour of Tunisia and Algeria.

In an arrival statement Al-Rashid said that, during the tour, he delivered messages from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait to the leaders of Algeria, Tunisia and Libya on the developments in the Arabian Gulf.

He added the tour also aimed at explaining Kuwait's stand toward the registration of Kuwaiti tankers in the United States, the Soviet Union and other countries, noting there are some who try to spread the illusion that Kuwait's step is an invitation for the superpowers to intervene in the region.

He reaffirmed that Kuwait has always been calling for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war, noting that Kuwait's stand is clear toward the presence of foreign forces in the region.

He added that explaining the danger of the situation for the brothers is an important step particularly following continuous attacks against the Kuwaiti oil tankers.

The Kuwaiti minister noted that the Arab officials he met during the tour expressed concern over H.H. the Amir of Kuwait's messages and expressed understanding toward all steps taken by Kuwait to preserve its strategical interests.

He said Kuwait appreciates the high spirit of the Arab brothers and anticipates cooperation until peace and stability prevail in the region.

PDRY

Al-'Attas, Kuwait Minister Discuss Regional Issues

EA291829 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, met this evening with Brother Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, the Kuwaiti minister of justice and personal envoy of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait. During the meeting, the brother chairman of the Presidium received a message from his brother Shaykh Jabir Al-Ahmad al-Sabah concerning relations between the two fraternal countries, the situation in the Gulf region,and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

The brother chairman of the Presidium expressed our country's solidarity with the fraternal State of Kuwait and its concern for the freedom of international navigation in the Arab Gulf. He stressed our country's principled and consistent stand toward the destructive war between Iraq and Iran. Our country calls for an end to this war and the settling of problems between the two neighboring countries through peaceful negotiations to ensure security and stability in the Arab Gulf area and to ward off the threats of imperialist military interventions. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, the minister of justice and religious endowments, and Sulayman al-Khassam, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Aden.

Brother Dari 'Abdallah al-Uthman left Aden this evening after a brief visit to our country lasting a few hours. Shortly before his departure, he told ANA that he was pleased by his meeting with Brother Al'Attas, his understanding of Kuwait's motives behind its moves, and the objectives of the initiative in light of the latest developments in the Arab arena. He was seen off at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, the minister of justice and religious endowments.

Last Group of Coup Detainees Released

EA291807 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] The last group of detainees, who were misled during the events of 13 January 1986, were released this morning in accordance with the Political Bureau decision adopted at its

regular meeting yesterday. The released detainees number 80 persons. [passage omitted]

SAUDI ARABIA

Cabinet Discusses Fundamentalists, Pilgrims

LD300942 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, chaired the cabinet meeting held this afternoon, Monday, 29 June, at the cabinet's secretariat in Al-Ta'if.

After the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that at the beginning of the meeting the cabinet acted in accordance with instructions from the beloved king and reviewed the general situation in the region in light of the political and informational reports submitted to it. The custodian of the two holy mosques then explained and analyzed some of the contents of these reports, emphasizing that the Kingdom shall proceed with its policy of returning good for evil and of deterring evil with all the instruments of goodness. It will put wisdom above emotions when making decisions and charting courses with complete readiness at all levels and in all fields for any emergency that requires the defense of the homeland, its holy places and resources, underscoring our faith in Almighty God and our adherence to the provisions of our righteous religion in all our affairs.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: The custodian of the two holy mosques also talked about the phenomenon of some pretenders who use religion as a means of undermining security in certain Arab and Islamic countries in the name of religion; some doing it out of ignorance of the real teachings of the Islamic faith and the essence of the call in the interest of everything that is good for mankind and this nation; and others, regrettably, out of deviation and alignment with the goals of the schemers hostile to the clear essence of Islam. He, may God safeguard him, also said: I am sure that the Saudi citizen is highly alert and vigilant against such pretenders and is most devoted to the security and safety of his homeland. All of us, especially students and men of the call, should stand at the forefront and protect the purity of the Islamic faith from any blemishes. We should be alert to anyone who tries to harm the country's security by exploiting the religious call; we should double efforts to propagate the real call and acquaint the public with the essence, ethics, and teachings of the righteous religion; and we should urge the people to follow the course of goodness and piety by preaching good and shunning evil. That is the sublime message of the holy Koran made law by the faithful prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him.

The information minister stated: The custodian of the two holy mosques also discussed with the ministers in charge of pilgrimage affairs a number of issues related to providing services for the pilgrims. He issued his noble instructions to ensure that all means of comfort and reassurance are provided for the pilgrims.

The cabinet then discussed topics on the agenda. The custodian of the two holy mosques heard the views of their highnesses and excellencies the ministers on a number of proposed internal regulations and discussed with them everything necessary to ensure comfort and prosperity for the public.

The cabinet issued a number of decisions, including:

1. The cabinet, after taking cognizance of the communications minister's report, approved the following: A. The communications minister is authorized to sign an agreement between the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Turkish Republic on the coordination and organization of maritime transport operations between the two countries in the manner attached to this decision, taking into consideration the amendments made to certain paragraphs; B. The communications minister is authorized to sign an agreement between the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Turkish Republic on coordination and organization of land transport operations on the roads between the two countries in the manner attached to the decision, taking into consideration the amendments made to certain paragraphs; and C. After the final signing of the two aforementioned agreements, the original signed copies shall be referred to the cabinet so that the necessary decisions and decrees approving them can be issued.

2. In accordance with the report of the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, the cabinet approved the appointment of 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Sa'd al-Zayd as deputy governor of Petromin for executive affairs at Grade 15.

Concluding his statement, Minister al-Sha'ir said that the cabinet approved some internal regulations and referred them to the cabinet's general committee for final drafting and submission to the cabinet at a later date.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Zayid Receives Iraqi Envoy, Saddam Message

JN291403 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jun (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on recent developments in the region and bilateral relations. Taha Rajab 'Uraym, the Iraqi ambassador to the UAE, handed the president the message during a meeting here at noon today.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid and His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Communique No 2,726 Notes Combat 28-29 Jun

JN291726 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1600 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,726 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With their successive victories and the heavy losses they inflict on our country's enemies, the suspect Zionist Iranian rulers, our brave Armed Forces affirm Iraq's ability, its overwhelming superiority, and its inevitable final victory over Iraq's ambitious, anti-Arab enemies. No matter what these enemies try, they will reap only shame, disgrace, and the wrath of God and all peoples. The following is a roundup of our activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force, the capable arm of the nation, carries out successive heroic deeds and always launches well-publicized, effective attacks on the enemy. Due to the Iranian regime's insistence on war, contrary to the will of the international community and the interests and aspirations of the region's peoples, including the Iranian peoples, afflicted as they are with their rulers and in view of the fact that this regime continues to use all Iranian revenue, oil, and other resources for the sole, evil purpose of continuing aggression against our country; due to the implementation of our firm, legitimate right to defend our land and people by depriving the Iranian regime of any resources or supplies assisting it to continue its aggressive war with the aim of pursuing the remnants of this regime; due to the desire to inflict heavy losses in soldiers, positions, weapons, equipment, and military hardware on these remnants; and due to the embodiment of our nation's unlimited ability to punish the aggressors, our heroic Air Force aircraft carried out the following missions today:

A. At 0939 [0539 GMT], our aircraft carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast and dealt it an accurate, effective blow.

B. Defying the enemy air defenses provided by world Zionism, our bold hawks carried out a devastating raid on a Hawk missile battery in the I Army Corps northern sector.

C. To inflict heavy losses on enemy scoundrels, weapons, and equipment and to pursue the Iranian remnants, the bold hawks carried out 91 combat missions against enemy positions and troop concentrations, inflicting heavy losses on them. Our brave hawks then returned safely and triumphantly to base in God's care and protection after carrying out all their missions. Let the Iranian rulers know that they will continue to be struck by Iraqi hammers until they end their evil actions and respond to the just call for peace. Success is granted by God.

2. With the courage of men who are faithful to their homeland and merciless to their enemies, the heroic helicopter gunship knights carried out a series of courageous raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations. They inflicted further losses on the enemy's soldiers, weapons, equipment, and military hardware with 31 combat missions. The knights returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

3. While one of our patrols was carrying out its duties in the no-man's-land in the V Army Corps northern sector, it spotted an enemy patrol. Our men confronted this formation with their known courage and managed to kill 15 scoundrels and capture 6 others, while the remaining Iranians fled.

4. The brave Al-'Amiq port force spotted eight enemy boats attempting to approach the loading platform at 1030 [0630 GMT] today. Our unit opened fire using various weapons and forced the enemy boats to flee toward Iran's coast.

5. Our victorious units in the I Army Corps northern sector continued their heroic operations against the Khomeyniite aggressors. Units from our brave artillery dealt crushing blows to selected enemy targets, inflicting serious losses on the enemy in addition to destroying a machinegun and killing a soldier elsewhere in the same sector.

6. A number of infantry positions and a medium-caliber machinegun were destroyed and enemy engineering works were halted in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. A medium-caliber machinegun was destroyed and an ammunition dump was detonated in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. The forces of the tyrannical, criminal clique ruling in Iran shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery last night. The enemy shelling damaged civilian property and a number of houses.

9. To rid themselves of the evil clique ruling in Iran, a number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units and were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 June 1987

President Meets Jordan's King Husayn in Baghdad

JN301159 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Official talks opened between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as soon as his majesty arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a working visit to the sisterly Republic of Iraq. This visit is part of bilateral consultation and coordination on issues of mutual and pan-Arab interest and the result of his majesty's persistent efforts on behalf of Arab solidarity.

Upon his arrival in Baghdad, his majesty was given an official reception, where His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led the welcoming party. Also present were Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and RCC member; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali; Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, the speaker of Iraq's National Assembly; Ahmad Hasan, head of the Presidential Office; cabinet ministers; and the ambassadors of Jordan and Iraq to Baghdad and Amman. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Chief of Staff Arrives 27 Jun

JN271812 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA) — Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, the Jordanian chief of staff, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a Jordanian delegation on a visit scheduled to last for several days. In a statement to INA, the chief of staff declared that this visit is part of continuing meetings and existing brotherly relations, the groundwork for which was established by President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn. He also hailed Iraq and its Armed Forces, as well as the great victories achieved on the Arab nation's eastern flank against the Iranian enemy.

The Jordanian chief of staff reiterated Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq in its just battle against Zionist Iranian aggression. He expressed appreciation for Iraq's peace calls as represented in President Saddam Husayn's letter to the Iranian rulers — a letter that calls for achieving regional security and stability and that is supported by all peace-loving people in the world.

Meets With Counterpart

JN281713 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] The chief of staff today received Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, Jordanian chief of staff, and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting Iraq. The meeting, which was also attended by the Jordanian ambassador to Baghdad, dealt with developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the Iraqi Army's devastating battlefield victories against the Khomeyniite aggressors.

Spokesman Applauds Mauritania's Break With Iran

JN291359 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, June 29, INA — An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman highly appreciated a decision of Mauritania to break off its diplomatic relations with Iran as a result of the Iranian regime intransigence to continue aggression on Iraq. The Mauritanian decision was also prompted by the Iranian regime insistence on carrying on war and rejection of all initiatives for restoring peace and continued direct threat to stability and security in the region and jeopardizing world's peace and security.

The spokesman said this decision indicates depth of awareness of "our brethren in Mauritania" to the dangers of the Iranian expansionists aggressive course not only on Iraq and the Arab Gulf countries which face direct threats and aggressions but also on the entire pan-Arab security, safety and independence of all Arab countries.

"We consider this decision as a clear-cut expression of the required Arab solidarity against all dangers and aggression to which the Arab nation is exposed in the entire Arab homeland", the spokesman concluded.

Nicaraguan Vice President Begins Official Visit

JN291859 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1826 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jun (INA) — Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez arrived in Baghdad this evening heading a delegation on an official visit to Iraq scheduled to last for several days. The Nicaraguan vice president and his delegation received an offical welcome led by Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president of Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Sergio Ramirez Mercado declared that he carries a message from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to President Saddam Husayn. He added that his country supports Iraq'speace initiatives for ending the Iran-Iraq war and said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on various areas of bilateral cooperation.

French Minister Delegate Noir Arrives 26 Jun

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN271129 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac on relations between the two countries. Michel Noir, French minister delegate to the economic minister's office in charge of foreign trade, handed the president the message during a meeting held by the two men. This meeting was also attended by the president's secretary, Jacques Chirac's adviser, and the French ambassador to Baghdad.

Meets With Minister Ramadan

JN271213 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Michel Noir, French minister delegate to the economic minister's office in charge of foreign trade, and the latter's delegation. They discussed bilateral relations and methods of developing them in the economic field to the benefit of both nations. The French minister arrived here yesterday.

Holds Talks With Tariq 'Aziz

JN271815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, received Michel Noir, French minister delegate to the economic minister's office in charge of foreign trade, here this evening. During the meeting, which was also attended by the French ambassador to Baghdad, the two sides discussed relations between their friendly countries, as well as ways to promote them in all sectors. They also reviewed the current regional situation.

Noir Departs 28 Jun

JN281714 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Michel Noir, French minister delegate to the economic minister's office in charge of foreign trade, departed Baghdad today following a 3-day visit. He was seen off by Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade.

Kuwaiti Official Brings Message From Amir

Arrives 26 Jun

LD280554 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Mr Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, in Baghdad tonight. [passage omitted].

Mr al-'Usaymi arrived in Baghdad earlier yesterday with a message from his highness the amir to President Saddam Husayn concerning an explanation of recent Gulf developments.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN272016 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, this evening received Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Iraq. During their talks, they reviewed the latest developments in Iran's aggression against Iraq, the regional situation, and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Nur Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary and chief of the Ministry's Arab Department, and the two fraternal countries' ambassadors to Baghdad and Kuwait.

Saddam Husayn Receives Message

JN281634 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0923 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, on current regional developments and Iran's threats against Kuwait. The message was delivered to his excellency by Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, when he was received by the president here today.

During the meeting, the president affirmed Iraq's principled stand that Iran's aggression is aimed against the Arab nation and the entire Gulf region, and that, proceeding from its constant pan-Arab stand and its brotherly and close relations with Kuwait, Iraq stands totally with its brothers in the sisterly country in defending their security and interests.

During the meeting, the sides discussed developments in Iran's aggression against Iraq, as well as Iraq's ability to crush this aggression and punish the aggressors until they accept a just and comprehensive peace.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the president's secretary, and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Baghdad.

Talks Begin With Algerian Minister, Delegation

Boudraa Received by Ramadan

JN281758 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Faysal Boudraa, Algerian minister of heavy industry, and his accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed relations between Iraq and Algeria and affirmed their mutual desire to find ways to bolster them in all fields to benefit the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation. The Algerian officials arrived here yesterday on a 3-day visit to Iraq.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN281846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, this evening received Faysal Boudraa, the Algerian minister of heavy industry. They discussed relations between the two fraternal countries, the latest regional developments, and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Nuri al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the Ministry's Arab Department, and the Algerian ambassador to Baghdad.

Delivers Message to President

JN291408 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received Faysal Boudraa, the Algerian minister of heavy industry. During the meeting Faysal Boudraa gave the president a verbal message from his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, concerning fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and developments in the Arab world. They discussed the development of relations in the industrial, agricultural, cultural, and other fields. They also reviewed the achievements of the joint Iraqi-Algerian committee, Arab affairs, and issues of mutual concern.

Attending the meeting were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the president's secretary, and the Algerian ambassador to Baghdad.

Minister 'Ezer Weizman Invited to Moscow

TA301813 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1808 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman has been invited to visit Moscow. This has been learned by our political correspondent Yig'al Goren. Senior political sources in Jerusalem this evening confirmed that Minister Weizman may confer with very senior elements in the Soviet top echelon. The political sources pointed out that the Soviets are interested in Minister Weizman's visit because they favor his peace policy and his ability to talk with all the parties involved in the Middle East conflict.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that in its Hebrew-language broadcasts this evening, Moscow Radio cautioned Israel that if it joins the U.S. Star Wars plan it will turn itself into a target in the event of a nuclear conflagration.

Foreign Minister Peres Pays 2-Day Visit to FRG

For reportage on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' activities in the FRG,including his meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 29 June West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Peres Reiterates Claim of PRC Contacts in Paris

TA292026 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres insists the number two man in the PRC Embassy in France announced that his country is contemplating the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. On his return to Israel after a European tour, Mr Peres said that a Socialist International team dealing with matters related to peace had also heard the man say this. 'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador to France, who held a telephone conversation with the Chinese diplomat, confirmed the report, he added.

Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that Mr Peres said at Ben-Gurion Airport this evening that the FRG chancellor also promised to do his best to persuade the Chinese to set up diplomatic relations with Israel when he vists that country soon.

As for the peace process and the convening of the international conference, the foreign minister said Soviet and U.S. representatives are to hold a crucial meeting early next month in the course of which the Americans will present tough questions on the international conference and the participation of the Soviets, according to Israel's conditions. Mr Peres pointed out that all the leaders he has talked to support both the international conference and Israel's demands from the Soviets.

Summing up, Mr Peres said the FRG will assist Israel in establishing a solar power station in Elat.

Report on Envoys' 'Conversation'

TA300539 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] 'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador to France, talked on the phone with Zhou Jue, the Chinese ambassador to France, and heard from him about the PRC's willingness to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel in the framework of the preparations for an international peace conference. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts adds the following details from Paris:

[Begin recording] The telephone conversation between Ambassadors Sofer and Jue was held on Friday, following the appeal of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres who visited Paris last weekend. Peres wanted confirmation of the remarks made by the number two man at the Chinese Embassy in Paris in an appearance before the Middle East Affairs Committee of the Socialist International about 10 days ago. According to reports, the Chinese diplomat then confirmed that the PRC maintains economic and scientific ties with Israel and said that there will be room to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries in the framework of the preparations for an international conference. Ambassador Jue confirmed the charge d'affaires' remarks, saying that if the current situation changes and peace processes leading to an international conference begin, there will be room to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations. As for scientific and economic relations, there is certainly a desire on the part of the Chinese to maintain and develop them. At the same time, the Chinese are moving quite slowly, and Peres' impression that if and when the Soviets take a step toward establishing relations with Israel the Chinese will rush to follow suit, is a well-founded one.

This was not the first meeting between Ambassadors Sofer and Jue. They have met several times in the past already, without publicity of course.

As may be recalled, the leak of the talk between Sofer and Soviet Ambassador Vorontsov harmed the dialogue between Israel and the USSR and put an end to these contacts in Paris. Ambassador Jue himself is an open-minded and pleasant person who does not avoid contacts with the media and even answered my questions in the past. Officially the Chinese deny any relationship with Israel, stating that the only contacts take place in the framework of international conferences and that they host Jewish businessmen. [end recording]

Paper on Tamir 'Secret Meetings'

TA300527 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Dan Gil'adi from Paris]

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir held a series of secret meetings in the past few months with senior PRC diplomats. The meetings were held in the Far East and in Europe. In addition, Tamir conferred — overtly — with the PRC ambassador to the United Nations. The Chinese message in these meetings was: We intend to promote the political ties with Israel up to the level of diplomatic relations.

In a meeting recently held in the Far East, a senior PRC figure told Tamir: "Once the international conference is convened, the PRC will establish diplomatic relations with Israel." The PRC would like to participate in the conference and is prepared to accept the Israeli condition — the renewal of diplomatic relations. *Hadashot* has learned that during a talk between the Foreign Ministry director general and the PRC ambassador to the United Nations, the PRC for the first time abstained from stipulating a withdrawal to the 1967 borders as a condition for establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

Members of the foreign minister's office believe that in light of Tamir's meetings with Chinese officials and in the wake of the talk between 'Ovadya Sofer, Israel's ambassador in France, and Zhou Jue, the PRC ambassador there, there is a chance of significantly promoting relations with the PRC in the not-too-distant future. [passage omitted]

Israelis Helping PRC Set Up Diamond Industry

TA291135 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jun 87 p 23

[Report by Beni Baraq]

[Excerpt] Chinese businessmen have recently approached Israeli diamond industrialists through third parties and requested their assistance in expanding and upgrading their diamond polishing industries.

According to Moshe Schnitzer, president of the diamond exchange, the first Israeli industrialist is already in the PRC helping the Chinese set up a local diamond polishing industry, as well as training schools to train qualified personnel. [passage omitted]

MA'ARIV Commentator Views U.S. Overture to Syria

TA291313 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jun 87 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Syrian Trick"]

[Text] The Syrians have been pleading with us to return our ambassador to Damascus; they want full diplomatic relations. This was said by a U.S. diplomat who arrived in Tel Aviv about 3 weeks ago following a visit to the Syrian capital. This was the only impression of Syria he was prepared to discuss. A few weeks later, this seems not to have been a casual remark. It was not Al-Asad who approached Reagan but rather the latter who approached the Syrian president with the proposal to open a U.S.-Syrian dialogue. At this point, Al-Asad has not made any commitments to the United States. The son of the Lebanese defense minister was released through his efforts, but the U.S. journalist who was kidnapped along with him by Hizballah has not yet been set free and is now the topic of discussions between Damascus and Washington.

Mikhail Gorbachev is not sending messages to Yitzhaq Shamir and is not proposing the opening of a dialogue on the resumption of diplomatic relations, whereas Reagan is writing to the Syrian president thanks to the fact that the Jordanian and Saudi kings, whose favor is courted by the United States, interceded for him.

A week ago *The Wall Street Journal* disclosed that the Reagan administration had shelved an intelligence document linking Abu Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] terrorist activities with Bulgaria, East Germany, Poland, and Syria. The reason for this was a report drafted by State Department official Alvin Adams following a visit to the Warsaw Pact countries. According to his report these governments are prepared to assist in the war against terrorism.

At the same time, *Jordan Times* published a report alleging that Damascus had banned Abu Nidal from entering Syrian territory. In the wake of this information, U.S. intelligence argued that Syria had closed Abu Nidal's training camps and that "for a year hardly any terrorist activities have been traced back to Syria."

Well, joy and glory: Syria has been fighting Abu Nidal and has been shirking terrorism. Moreover, following reports about tension between the Syrian Army and Hizballah gangs, the distorted impression given is that the United States will henceforth be able to rely on Syria to curb terrorism. Indeed, the Syrian Army has been clashing with the Khomeyniistic gangs in Lebanon and has also clashed with 'Arafat's Fatah in the past, but this is no proof that Syria is shirking terrorism. Syria wants to keep the terrorist gangs under control to ensure that they do not block its domination of Lebanon, but this is no reason to delude oneself that it will help eradicate terrorism.

Al-Asad is trying to use his contacts with the Americans to resist Soviet pressure to give in to 'Arafat. He had no qualms about massacring 'Arafat's men when they hindered his control over Lebanon, and he will have no qualms about locking horns with Hizballah when it stands in his way. Al-Asad has not done this so far not because he repudiates terrorism, but for tactical reasons.

The United States has had experience with Al-Asad on this issue. U.S. UN Ambassador Vernon Walters and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy went to Damascus last May but returned empty-handed. Walters is now due in Damascus once again. He is an experienced diplomat. In March 1973 Kissinger sent him to Morocco to hold a secret meeting with a PLO representative. It was his report, in which he ruled that the PLO was not only harassing Israel but also wanted to topple Husayn, which tipped the scales against the PLO. Walters will not be fooled by Al-Asad's platitudes and, presumably, a turnabout in Damascus-Washington relations should not be expected any time soon. However, the publicizing of Reagan's appeal to Al-Asad might have negative repercussions in the European capitals.

Hizballah released Reverend Benjamin Weir from captivity in Lebanon in September 1985. That same month, the ship *Arctic* owned by "Alice" [names of ship and firm as published] of Copenhagen arrived at an Iranian port with a cargo of U.S. weapons from Elat. The relationship between the two events was revealed upon the disclosure of "Irangate."

Recently Reverend Weir showed his ingratitude toward Israel, which helped secure his release. In a meeting of the Presbyterian Church held in the United States this month, he carried the

banner of those objecting to a resolution describing Eretz Yisra'el as "the chosen land belonging to the chosen people — the Jews" and strongly lobbied for the Palestinians. It is highly doubtful that the released hostages will react likewise toward Syria if and when a U.S.-Syrian agreement is reached on their release. In any event, the Syrian option that Reagan has tried to create through his letter to Al-Asad is an alternative to the "Israeli option" for the release of the hostages.

Israel cannot remonstrate with the United States for its attempts to seek Syria's assistance in order to secure the release of its captive citizens or for its efforts to improve its relations with an Arab state.

Had Washington exchanged this information with Jerusalem, Israel may have even welcomed the attempt to strengthen the U.S. position in the region. However, anxiety over the Americans burning their fingers while trying to pull the chestnuts out of the Lebanese fire precludes this from being the case.

Shamir on Rabin Trip, International Conference

TA301037 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] The only aim of the defense minister's visit to the United States is to collect data that will help us reach decisions on the Lavi project. This was stated today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. During a visit to Or 'Aqiva, the prime minister was also asked about Foreign Minister Peres' meetings in Europe on the issue of the international conference. Shamir said: Why should other countries not want to participate in such a conference that would determine Israel's fate. We, in any event, do not want to participate in a conference, Shamir added.

Tehiya Issues Ultimatum on Settlements, Election

TA301220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as several rightist Knesset members [MK's] have called upon the Cabinet to settle an additional 30,000 Jews in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District in the time still left for the incumbent Cabinet, namely 18 months. They have also demanded approval for the immediate allocation of the funds necessary to bring this about.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the council was supported by Tehiya MK Yuval Ne'eman and Likud MK's Hayim Kaufman and Yig'al Kohen, who supported Tehiya's demand that the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza be beefed up to block what they called Shim'on Peres' process of pushing for an international conference.

MK Yuval Ne'eman emphasized that if the Cabinet does not take action in accordance with Tehiya's demands within 2 weeks, the movement will join the voices demanding early elections. Reacting to MK Hayim Kaufman's demand that Tehiya join the Cabinet, MK Ne'eman responded: This is nonsense; you had better not think we are political greenhorns.

Development in South Lebanon Infrastructure Viewed

TA300758 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Iran and Syria are investing a great deal of money in developing an infrastructure for the Shi'ite residents who live in the areas under their control in Lebanon. The assessment is that Israel too should invest money in such an infrastructure in the security zone. Mikha'el Deqel, the deputy defense minister, yesterday toured the security zone and said such investment should be examined. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David was there.

[Begin recording] [Ben-David] Anyone looking at the areas north of the security zone in southern Lebanon will not be able to miss the development work underway there: Electricity and roads are being taken care of thanks to Iranian and Syrian funds flowing into the region. By contrast, the development of the civilian infrastructure in the security zone is much slower. The assessment is that the more we invest in civilian infrastructure for the inhabitants of the security zone, the lower the chances that the terrorist organizations will be able to penetrate these villages. Budget-wise, this will not mean a significant addition in Lebanese prices. Deputy Defense Minister Mikha'el Deqel suggests that this matter be examined.

[Deqel] Indeed, we see that a lot of money is being invested in the infrastructure north of the security zone, while this is not noticeable on our part. We should look into the matter.

[Ben-David] At the same time, one should not ignore the fact that the standard of living in the security zone is relatively good. A hospital, equipped with sophisticated, modern equipment, and built by the IDF, operates in Marj 'Uyun to the satisfaction of the local residents. [passage omitted]

Relative quiet prevails in the security zone lately. There have been no large attacks by the Hizballah, mainly due to the recent blows it was dealt and in the wake of the Syrian pressure exerted on this organization after the kidnapping of the U.S. journalist. One should still remember that the ability of the Hizballah fighters has improved lately, and that this organization mobilizes many youths to enter its ranks. The cooperation between Hizballah and the PLO may tighten and result in increased terrorist attacks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Syrians Plan To Stem Al-Yarmuk River Flow

TA261944 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1715 GMT 26 Jun 87

[Text] Any one looking at Syria at the point where the Jordanian, Syrian, and Israeli borders converge and the Al-Yarmuk flows into the Jordan River will find that the Syrian landscape nearby is changing. The Syrians have developed large artificial lakes and new settlements waiting for inhabitants. This is all part of a Syrian grand plan for the use of the water of the Al-Yarmuk and its tributaries. In a first disclosure tonight, with the help of photographs taken with a telescopic lens, Ehud Ya'ari reports a Syrian plan that has aroused concern both in Israel and in Jordan. If implemented, the plan might lead to a partial desiccation of

the Al-Yarmuk and, consequently, to a reduction in the volume of water flowing into the Jordan River and the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley, both on the Jordanian and Israeli sides of the border. King Husayn raised this danger in his talks with Al-Asad in Damascus this week, and today we learned that the Syrian Government has banned Syrians from drilling wells throughout the Al-Yarmuk zone lest Damascus' grand plan, which might have far-reaching repercussions on international relations in our region, be affected. Here is Ehud Ya'ari's report about the Al-Yarmuk plan:

[Begin video recording] In arid areas such as ours, water is sometimes tantamount to fuel. Away from any unnecessary publicity, a dispute has slowly been brewing at the point where the Israeli, Jordanian, and Syrian borders converge at the Al-Yarmuk River, which flows down from the Bashan area, and its tributaries, such as the Nahr al-Ruqqad, which also flows through Syrian territory. The Al-Yarmuk carries on the average some 470 million cubic meters of water every year, similar to the Jordan River's flow when it leaves Lake Tiberias. In the summer, of course, the flow is not strong and water becomes very precious. The question now is how much water will be left at this point where the river leaves Syrian territory.

Nahr al-Ruqqad is the purple line, the cease-fire line in the southern part of the Golan Heights. Unlike the Jordan River tributaries, its water does not come from springs but from winter floods. Now it is almost dry here, below the IDF positions. However, in season the Nahr al-Ruqqad pours large quantities of water into the Al-Yarmuk which ultimately irrigate the Jordan Rift Valley. Incidentally, Syria, Israel, and Jordan maintain only a few troops, mainly in observation posts, above this area. There is no real tension here, but changes have been under way further up the riverbed. If the Syrians complete their new plan, called the Upper Al-Yarmuk Plan, Nahr al-Ruqqad will be as dry as it is now through most of the winter season. The water simply will not get this far, to the confluence with the Al-Yarmuk, and the same will apply to other major tributaries. The Jordanian Kingdom will no longer be able to rely on the water of this river and Israel will enjoy less of the surpluses that currently help raise Lake Tiberias' water level.

The village of Al-Rafid at the bottom of Al-Faras is half-abandoned, as are many other Syrian villages opposite the Golan Heights. This year artificial lakes were added to the landscape. One photograph shows Lake (Jamu'), the beginning of a grand design to develop the Golan Heights. It was taken with a powerful telescopic lens in hazy conditions from very far away.

The Syrians have already built new villages to absorb the inhabitants they want to move to this place. They estimate that the area east of here up to Dar'a and the borders of the desert will be able to take in 500,000 people. Meanwhile they are doing the engineering work and the villages are almost empty.

The second lake seen from Israeli territory, Ghadir al-Bustan, is designed to contain some 12 million cubic meters of water, water which will no longer flow down the Nahr al-Ruqqad riverbed toward Jordan and Israel.

Indeed, the work has been taking place under Israel's nose. This is a young lake, less than 1 year old, the likes of which have been sprouting near the farther tributaries of the Al-Yarmuk River east of here. The big tractors raising the ramps around the lake can be seen in the telescopic photographs. The Syrians are apprehensive about floods in the rainy season and are taking advantage of the dry season to do this work. Other bulldozers are working on the southern ramp which confines the lake.

For the first time since the 6-Day War, President al-Asad is not building fortifications or antitank trenches on the Golan Heights. One should not forget that Anwar al-Sadat's reconstruction of the towns along the Suez Canal was the corridor to peace in the 1970's. Indeed, Husayn's settlement and agricultural development of the Jordan Rift Valley with the help of the Al-Yarmuk River waters was the preamble to military tranquillity on the border with Israel.

The sight seen through binoculars may harbor some hope along with concern for the fate of the Al-Yarmuk. Syria's water company, SARICO, is in charge of this ambitious plan, whose final range may expand if Al-Asad obtains the necessary funds, some $3 to $4 billion. Initially, the Syrians talk about the irrigation of some 100,000 dunams, projects of greenhouses and the like, and 260 km of mostly open canals. Why should Syria buy about half the vegetable produce coming out of the Jordan Rift Valley cultivated by Husayn with water from the Al-Yarmuk, when it can produce itself with the same water?

According to the plan, the villages will fill up and the entire area will be green and densely populated by the year 2000, thanks to the water Syria will take away from Jordan and Israel. Incidentally, there is no agreement about the distribution of this water. The Syrian approach to the Al-Yarmuk is apparently based on the assumption that he who sits at the top of the waterflow has far-reaching rights over the use of the water. Nevertheless, international law does not uphold arbitrariness and exclusivity for those who can get at the water first.

As is known, the Jordanians live off the Al-Yarmuk, the only river actually running through their territory. Seen in the picture is one of their typical water plants designed to bring the water up the slopes of the Gilead Mountains for agricultural purposes. A small water reservoir, as well as a pumping facility and an open canal can also be seen with the telescopic lens. Agriculture is blossoming around the Ghawr Canal in the Jordan Rift Valley, which draws its water from the Al-Yarmuk before it flows into the Jordan River. It should be emphasized that the Syrians are now talking about a project three times as big as the Jordanian one. Without the secure water supply from the Al-Yarmuk, King Husayn will find himself in serious trouble.

Near the Jordanian village of Al-Mukhaybah, the Jordanians and the Syrians planned to build a dam in the mid-1960's. As may be remembered, they then wanted to divert the Nahr Baniyas into the Al-Yarmuk and stop the water before it gets to Israel. That plan, which was not too serious anyway, collapsed, and since then Jordan and Syria have not reached any other agreement.

The Jordanians definitely live off the Al-Yarmuk. They take approximately 160 million cubic meters from it every year, compared to only 100 million cubic meters the Syrians were taking from it not too long ago. Most of Husayn's development visions are related to this river, the water source for thirsty Jordan. Indeed, the Jordanians have been watching what the Syrians are doing with ever increasing worry. It seems that within one or two decades Syria may exploit 70 or even 80 percent of the volume of the river. In such a case, Jordan would be left with less than the amount of water it needs to meet Husayn's plans.

The long and short of it is that these Jordanian children, shown quietly bathing in the Al-Yarmuk, can under no circumstances be certain that their children will be able to go down to the river and find water when the day comes. The Al-Yarmuk might turn from a river into a wadi. [end videorecording]

Our map gives a general picture of the system of dams the Syrians are building now. All in all there will be no less than 20 dams on the various tributaries of the Al-Yarmuk. Incidentally, a Soviet firm is also involved in the building of these dams. The Syrians control most of the Al-Yarmuk's river basin, which stretches over an area of 7,500 square km, there times as big as the Jordan River's river basin. Consequently, they can seize most of the water, over 350 million cubic meters, before the river reaches the point where water is pumped into the Jordan Ghawr Canal. The Syrian-Jordanian plan of some 35 years ago was to jointly build a dam on Mahattat Maqarin. Today it is clear that the issue has been dropped.

Israel has for some time been following the Syrian moves. In the future we must also secure for ourselves a small quantity of the Al-Yarmuk's waters, several million cubic meters a year. And what is particularly important, part of this water must get to Israeli territory in the summer dry season as well. At the moment there are various assessments about the seriousness of the Syrian moves as they relate to Israel.

As said, the Jordanians are more worried. Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm was in Amman 2 weeks ago to discuss other issues, but the Jordanians practically forced him to devote a whole day to a lengthy seminar about the catastrophe that will hit them if Syria behaves inconsiderately. Al-Kasm and his entourage were forced to listen to lengthy discourses and to analyze detailed maps. The Jordanians also approached the Americans to caution about the possible threat in store for them. For the moment, the Americans have promised to look into the situation but have not done much.

After lengthy lecutres in Amman, the Jordanians took the Syrians in a helicopter to the Mahattat Maqarin site on the Al-Yarmuk and tried once again to persuade them to contemplate a joint building of a dam on this site rather than on the farther tributaries. The Syrian prime minister promised to think about this, but it is doubtful whether Damascus will give any thought to this idea. In any evnet, at least one Amman newspaper sang the old tune again this week: Syria would be well advised to work with rather than against Jordan to keep Israel from the water.

Project Threatens Jordan

TA281759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin says Syria's plan to use all the water of the Al-Yarmuk River is a threat to Jordan's agriculture. Israel pumps only a small quantity of water from this river, and therefore most of the problem is Jordan's. In an interview to our correspondent Jack Katzenell, the agriculture minister refused to elaborate on the impact that the Syrian project will have on Israel, stating that it is Amman which is facing the main problem. [passage omitted]

'Outraged' Mayors To Fight West Bank Water Plan

TA280647 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Outraged Arab mayors in the Bethlehem area yesterday pledged to fight a major Israeli water-drilling scheme in the region, and the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration said it would demand guarantees that the project would not harm the water supply of neighbouring Arab communities.

The project, to be sited near Herodion, southeast of Bethlehem, is expected to lead to the pumping of 18 million cubic metres of water anually for use mostly in Jerusalem and Jewish settlements. Sources associated with the project have said it could deplete the water in wells used by Arab communities in the area, while only making a small quantity of the pumped water available to the Arab villages and towns.

Details of the project, published Friday in *The Jerusalem Post*, were reported yesterday in the East Jerusalem press. The *Al-Fajr* and *Al-Nahar* newspapers condemned the project in editorials, saying it belied Israeli peace declarations.

"This plan threatens our very existence," Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj told *The Post*. He said the plan was "a matter of to be or not to be for us," because it affected communities on the edge of he Judaean desert, including Bethlehem, which he said has been suffering from an acute water shortage.

"This is the most dangerous situation we have faced in the last 20 years, and we will resist it with all means we have and at every level," he said. "It is an encroachment on our national rights."

Frayj, who had not been formally notified of the plan, called on Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Civil Administration head Efrayim Sene to express opposition to the scheme, which he said "contradicted Israeli statements about peaceful coexistence." He said the Board of Directors of the Bethlehem Water Authority, which includes Frayj and the mayors of Bayt Sahur and Bayt Jalah, would hold an emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss the scheme.

Bayt Sahur Mayor Hanna al-Atrash, who heads the authority, yesterday condemned the plan as a violation of international law in remarks published in *Al-Fajr*.

The Civil Administration, which must approve the project before it can get underway, said yesterday it would demand guarantees in coming talks with the Mekorot water company that Arab interests in the region not be harmed by the scheme. The administration will make its agreement conditional on compensation for Arab wells depleted by the project, and assurances that adequate quantities of water pumped by the project will be allocated to Arab communities to meet current and future demand.

Plan To 'Ease' Water Shortage

TA281756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin says the plan to drill a well at Herodion near Bethlehem to supply Jerusalem with water will not deplete water supplies for surrounding Arab communities. He told reporter Jack Katzenell that the proposed well will supply water to both Arab and Jewish communities and will help ease the water shortage in the Bethlehem area. Arab mayors in the Bethlehem area say they fear that the project could drain off all the water reserves availabe for the communities.

Study Shows Growth in Economic Ties With Egypt

TA291218 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jun 87 p 5

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Text] Israel exports some $70 million in oil distillates to Egypt every year through a third party, according to a study conducted by Haifa University entitled "Israeli-Egyptian Economic Relations Between 1980 and 1984."

In an average year, Israel buys 27 percent of its crude oil purchases from Egypt. From Egypt's point of view, Israel is a large oil purchaser buying some 30 percent of Egypt's oil exports for an estimated $135 million.

The author of the study, Yoram Metal of the university's Faculty of History of the Middle East, arrived at the conclusion that despite prevailing qualms about the quality of bilateral relations, Egypt does not regard peace with Israel as a mere agreement on nonbelligerence.

Despite difficulties, bilateral cooperation and economic relations have developed extensively. For example, agricultural trade from 1980 to 1984 amounted to an average of $12.7 million annually. In the field of research, several joint Israeli-Egyptian-U.S. projects are under way on the development of arid areas, the protection of vegetation, and solar disinfection. However, when it comes to planning and implementing of large regional projects this cooperation has failed, apparently because the projects were incompatible with the social situation in Egypt, because of objections raised by professionals involved, and because of political conditions.

The number of tourists traveling between Israel and Egypt in the 4 years discussed in the study totaled 2 million, mostly Israelis traveling to Egypt. The author of the study notes that few Egyptian tourists come to Israel due to administrative restrictions, questionings and interrogations by the Egyptian domestic security services, and hostile coverage in the Egyptian media.

King Husayn Leaves on 'Working' Visit to Iraq

JN301014 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for Baghdad on a working visit to the fraternal Republic of Iraq. During the visit, he will meet with his brother President Saddam Husayn as part of the consultations and coordination between the two sister countries on issues of interest to the two countries and to the Arab nation. The meeting is also part of his majesty's persistent efforts to achieve Arab solidarity.

His Majesty is accompanied by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of court.

His Majesty was seen off at the airport by Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the chief of the Royal Household; the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court; and senior civilian and military officials.

King Husayn, Delegation Return From Turkey

JN291534 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur and their accompanying delegation returned to the homeland this afternoon following an official 4-day visit to Turkey. His Majesty held bilateral talks with Turkish President Kenan Evren. They discussed relations and ways to bolster and develop them in the two countries' interests. The talks also dealt with current international issues, especially the situation in the region and international efforts to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East. They discussed the Iraq-Iran war and the need to end this conflict and resolve the current difficulties bedween the two countries through negotiations.

His majesty was welcomed at the airport by His Highness 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, the Senate president, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the court minister, the ministers, the chief of the royal household, the secretary general of the royal court, a number of senior officials, and the Turkish charge d'affaires in Amman. Returning with his majesty were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; Staff Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Egypt's Usamah al-Baz Makes Visit; To Hold Talks

Arrives 29 Jun

NC291612 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan. He said he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak for King Husayn of Jordan. Dr Al-Baz is visiting Jordan pursuant to the continuous consultations and coordination between the two sisterly countries.

Meets With King Husayn

JN292035 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received a message from his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message followed the framework of the constant coordination and consultations between the two leaders on current developments in the Arab world. Dr Usamah al-Baz, the president's political adviser and Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary, conveyed the message during an audience with his majesty at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening.

Dudin Addresses Conference on Palestinian Affairs

JN291513 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Amman — Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, addressed the opening session of the 39th conference of officials in charge of Palestinian affairs today. He said that Jordan has a firm pan-Arab commitment. Dudin stated that this commitment proents Jordan to work on the highest levels and on all levels and to make every possible effort to establish a just and comprehensive peace as defined by the UN Charter and as endorsed by UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions.

He said Jordan is seeking to activate the efforts to convene an international peace conference to be called for by the UN secretary general and attended by all the parties to the conflict, as well as the five permanent member states of the Security Council. Dudin said Jordan is in constant touch with the influential international parties and is making every possible effort to resolve the problems created by the occupation authorities in the occupied Arab territory. He said Jordan is also implementing a special program for economic and social development in the occupied territory. The program seeks to assist the kinfolk living under the yoke of occupation and to strengthen their steadfastness to confront the difficult circumstancs they are experiencing. Another of its goals is to safeguard their Arab identity.

Dudin asserted that Jordan categorically rejects the Israeli policy of exploiting the time factor to complete the implementation of Israeli schemes.

He urged the conferees to rise to the challenges and threats and pay proper attention to the study and discussion of the topics on the conference agenda. In this way, they can contribute to the

adoption of resolutions that will alleviate the suffering of the kinfolk in the occupied territory and save them from their ordeal.

Muhammad al-Farra, Arab League assistant secretary general and head of the general administration for Palestine affairs, also delivered a speech. He expressed the Arab League secretariat's thanks and appreciation to Jordan, its king, government, and people for hosting the current session of the conference of officials in charge of Palestinian affairs. He said the Palestinian question is passing through a critical stage, the most important element of which is the revival of the idea of an international peace conference in the Middle East. He noted that the conference idea is the subject of intensive international activity although it has not yet reached the stage of implementation. He said the idea can be viewed as expressing the desire of the international community to act to find a solution to the chronic conflict that threatens peace in the area and in the world.

Ahmad Qatanani, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, was elected chairman of the current session.

The conference will discuss several issues, the most important of which are developments in the Palestine question, the affairs of Palestinians in the occupied territory, and developments in the colonialist settlement of the occupied Arab territory.

Minister Praises Mauritania's Break With Iran

JN291919 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Amman, June 29, INA — Jordanian Information Minister, Muhammad al-Khatib praised Mauritania's decision to sever diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime.

In a statemen to INA correspondent here, Mr. Al-Khatib said Mauritania's step is part of a series of measures witnessed by the international diplomatic arena in confronting the Iranian aggression and interference in domestic affairs of several Islamic and Arab countries including Iraq which represents a pillar of Arab steadfastness in the eastern front of the Arab homeland.

The Jordanian information minister said that several Islamic and Arab countries started reconsidering their relations with the Iranian regime as a result of this regime interference and continued aggression on Iraq which is an aggression on the entire Islamic and Arab nation.

Mr. Al-Khatib stressed that continued Iranian aggression on Iraq and attempts to export the Khomeynists thoughts by force, terrorism and embezzlement were major reasons that prompted several countries including Tunisia and Mauritania to break off relations with Iran. He said that Mauritania would not be the last country that takes the initiatives of severing relations with the Iranian regime as long as this regime insists on its course of aggression.

Paper Denounces 'Partition Scheme' in Lebanon

JN290840 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jun 87 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "A Scheme Which Smacks of Partition"]

[Text] Israel is massing its troops in the border area of southern Lebanon. Lebanese groups, forces, and sects are becoming more polarized. At this time, the scheme to establish an independent government in East Beirut seems only to add fuel to the crisis which has been raging for many years in that divided country.

Such a scheme has all the features of partition. Undoubtedly, it will worsen the crisis. The various forces and militias will be embroiled in a new bloody conflict which will be to no one's advantage.

Instead of the Lebanese leaders calling for unity in light of the political vacuum caused by the assassination of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the leaders of parties and sects have begun to beat the war drums anew amid a violent flood of mutual recriminations, threats, shelling, killing, and revenge.

The forces who propose an independent government are known for their isolationist and partitionist tendencies. Therefore, we can view the proposal as an attempt to rekindle the fire of conflict which has not yet subsided despite the lull in the streets and quarters on both sides of the conflict lines.

We believe that such partition schemes are doomed to failure. They will have no repercussions inside or outside Lebanon. We also believe that the past bitter events have confirmed that there is no alternative to national dialogue among all forces involved in this internal crisis. There is no alternative to building a new unified free, democratic Arab Lebanon whose rebirth will end the Lebanese people's long suffering.

Paper Says French Hostages To Be Freed 'Very Soon'

JN301350 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic
1330 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jun (WAM) — *Al-Ittihad* today said that the French hostages being held in Lebanon are expected to be released very soon in exchange for an amount of money and provided that the kidnappers will not be pursued. *Al-Ittihad* noted that a security report received by a Lebanese minister, and to which the paper had access, noted that an agreement to this effect was reached earlier this year but its implementation was postponed as a result of the Irangate issue.

Shi'ite Source Says Two Hostages Taken to Iran

JN301125 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] According to reports from Beirut citing a Shi'ite personality who asked not to be identified, members of the Iranian Revolution Guards Corps [in Lebanon] transferred two U.S. hostages to Iran via Syria and Turkey in May. The hostages are believed to be Terry Anderson, former chief of the AP office in the Middle East, kidnapped on 16 March 1985, and Thomas Sutherland, a professor at the American University of Beirut, abducted on 9 June 1985.

The Shi'ite personality, who appears to be reliable, said the move had prompted the Syrians to cease the movements of the Iranian Revolution Guards along the Syrian-Lebanese border.

Another Shi'ite personality, who also asked not to be identified, has confirmed that Iranian vehicles have recently been thoroughly searched at Syrian border points and the checkpoints erected by the Syrians on the roads, despite protests by the Iranian diplomats who claimed diplomatic immunity.

Hizballah Criticizes 'Anti-Kidnapping Statements'

NC292143 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2115 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] A notable development related to the Syrian-Iranian conflict has emerged in the issue of the kidnappings of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Following the recent Syrian campaign, Hizballah has criticized anti-kidnapping statements in Lebanon. Official Hizballah spokesman Ibrahim al-Amin has called for supporting the kidnappers in the open battle [al-ma'rakah maftuhah] with the West, as he put it. He asked: In whose interest are the media and press documents and the leaders' statements which denounce kidnapping being made? They make these statements more often than they denounce Israel's crimes.

Al-Amin added: Proceeding from the principle that Israel must be eliminated from the earth, we in Lebanon believe the battle with Israel and imperialist states is open. Our people were treated unjustly during the [Israeli] devastation in 1982. We believe they have the right to confront America, France, and Israel in a manner which they see fit.

Hizballah denies any relation with the kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil Reportedly Met Secretly With Bendjedid

LD291800 Kuwait KUNA in English 1629 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Beirut, June 29 (KUNA) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil met briefly with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers recently, diplomatic sources disclosed Monday.

The sources told KUNA that Al-Jumayyil made a few hours secret visit to Algiers on April 15 during which he had talks with Chadli Bendjedid on the situation in Lebanon and the Syrian-Lebanese talks.

Al-Jumayyil urged Bendjedid to pursue his mediation with the Syrian leadership to resume the Syrian-Lebanese talks which reached a deadlock over the elimination of sectarianism in Lebanon, limiting the power of the head of state, Lebanon's Arab identity and the distinguished relations between Lebanon and Syria.

There was no official confirmation from the Lebanese presidential palace or the Algerian Embassy here on the visit.

Al-Jumayyil To Meet With Saudi Envoy 'Soon'

NC300524 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Efforts are now being made to end the stagnation in Lebanon. There is also evidence of a Saudi role in rapprochement between Beirut and Damascus. Within the context of these events, informed sources have expressed the belief that a meeting between an envoy of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Saudi envoy Mr Rafiq al-Hariri will take place soon to review recent Saudi-Syrian contacts.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that former Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim left last night for Larnaca, where he is expected to meet with Rafiq al-Hariri. Al-Hariri had earlier conveyed a message from King Fahd to President Hafiz al-Asad that dealt with the situation in Lebanon. It also touched on an Arab summit conference, which Saudi Arabia is expected to request shortly.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message From Kuwaiti Amir

NC291932 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has received a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad pertaining to the situation in the Arab Gulf in light of recent developments.

In his message, the Kuwaiti amir called on the Arab nation to take a stand to deal with this serious situation and to avoid any deterioration. He expressed this in view of the importance of the Gulf area and its military, strategic, and vital influence.

The message also deals with bilateral relations.

TANJUG Cites Najibullah on Cease-Fire 'Extension'

LD281931 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1232 GMT 28 Jun 87

["Pool" item]

[Text] Kabul, June 28 (APS) — Mohammad Najibullah, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, has announced the extension for one month of the six-month ceasefire decreed unilaterally by the government on January 15, Kabul stated Saturday.

Speaking during the second session of the national reconciliation commission, Najibullah also announced that the official name of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan would be changed to the Republic of Afghanistan. No date was given for the change.

BAKHTAR Reports Najibullah News Conference 28 Jun

LD300817 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0500 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, June 28, [Date as received] *Bakhtar* — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, gave a press conference today for the participants in the conference of the journalists of non-aligned countries held in Kabul and answered their questions. Replying to the questions of the journalists, Najib said:

National reconciliation is not a one-sided measure or a one-way street. The cessation of war and concentration of all efforts of the people for the solution of the problems depends on the other side. Regrettably, the U.S. imperialism, its allies in NATO and international reaction have chosen the irreconcilability side.

The question of withdrawal of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, as a bilateral issue, has been assessed by the two countries and there are agreements on its general framework. The time-frame cannot exist unless and until there is logical thinking in the positions of the other sides involved in the problem around Afghanistan. But we have repeatedly stated that the essential issue to be solved is the cessation of interference from abroad and reliable international guarantees on its non-recurrence. The troops shall return within a time-frame which is logical and rational from political, security and logistics points of view.

It is not fully understandable why the Western mass media make the fuss. One may think that they have not read the numerous statements issued by the Soviet Union and our state to the effect that the limited Soviet military contingent will withdraw from our country provided there is a guarantee, particularly a dependable guarantee, for the non-resumption of interference in the affairs of Afghanistan from outside.

In the third stage of the seventh round of Geneva talks, the Afghan side tabled a proposal which could have constituted a logical and practical basis for a time-frame for the return of the contingent. The proposal reduced the differences on the matter which existed between the two sides.

The revolutionary power is at present established in more than 8,600 villages, 192 districts, 11 counties, and 45 cities and towns. From the point of view of residential areas, this constitutes the major part of Afghanistan. The enemies as a whole live in the deserts, in the mountains and in uninhabitable areas.

Today not only the people, but the governments, parliaments, social institutions and political organisations in the countries of the region are widely welcoming the policy of national reconciliation and the initiatives for ending this bloody war.

We are keeping open the doors of negotiations and reconciliation to all those who are interested in the peaceful future of their country and do not consider war as a means of solution of problems. Our people resent bloodshed and therefore negotiations for putting an end to it are not anything surprising.

The policy of national reconciliation is taking concrete forms and is becoming all-embracing. The people of Afghanistan are supporting it. But it should be stated that the [words indistinct] side with its present policy is isolating itself from the people and its ranks. And the main factor responsible for the continuance of this path by the irreconcilable side is its mercenary character and its following of the U.S. policy.

Unfortunately, the interference from Iran is continuing and the animosity of the Iranian authorities against our country has not decreased. Despite our flexibility, the dimensions of the difficulties have not been reduced. Unfortunately the stand of the circles and quarters which support the export of "Islamic revolution" and formation of so-called "Islamic Khalifate" or the "Land of Iran" or so-called third superpower of the world is still strong in the Iranian Government. We must state that all these modes of thinking are analogous to expansionism.

We are very hopeful that the government of Pakistan will undertake a more realistic approach towards the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Because reconciliation in Afghanistan will positively affect the situation in the region and in our view this corresponds to the interests of the peoples of all the countries.

In Afghanistan, the objective conditions exist for the establishment of a genuine coalition of the entire peace-loving forces of the society. The last round of Geneva talks ended some four months ago with the condition that the date of next round of talks will be decided through diplomatic channels. The fact that during this span of time, less information is received on Geneva talks is something natural. If the Pakistani side takes a realistic position, free from the U.S. pressures, we not only hope but believe that the final solution of the problem is not very far away. The withdrawal of Pakistan from a special state of "political unwillingness" will give a decisive impetus to this process.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is independent, free and neutral and we forge ahead towards the further consolidation of our credible political status, based on the will and interest of our people. But the objective of imperialism is precisely embodied in their aim to change the character of Afghanistan as an independent, non-aligned and neutral country.

Concerning the prospect of a coalition government, we do not set forth the task of attracting only those who have close politico-ideological links with us. We are ready to cooperate within the framework of a coalition government with all the socio-political and national forces who agree, like us, to put an immediate end to fratricidal war and not to permit in future to make use of the armed forces for the solution of internal issues.

National Reconciliation Commission Resolution
LD300148 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
0600 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Kabul, 27 Jun (*Bakhtar*) — The resolution of the second session of the DRA Supreme National Reconciliation Commission, dated 27 June 1987:

Five months have elapsed since the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation in our country. All our Muslim and toiling people — workers, peasants, intelligentsia, clergy, national traders, private investors, military personnel, representatives of various nationalities, clans, and tribes — have warmly welcomed national reconciliation, a humane and peaceful policy. They regard this policy as the only way to achieve peace and to halt the war and bloodshed. The idea of national reconciliation as the lofty objective of every family and every patriot is a new page in the history of our people and country. The toilers of Afghanistan have realized that only through this approach can they ensure their own and their families' prosperity and the country's economic growth and life.

We believe that safeguarding the independence, territorial integrity, and nonaligned status of Afghanistan can be achieved only by implementing this policy. During the elapsed period, 2,498 national reconciliation commissions have been established in the provinces, districts, cities, and villages, and throughout the country as a whole. Nearly 90,000 credible persons, ulema, social figures, tribal leaders, and representatives of fraternal nationalities, including nearly 5,000 opposition representatives, are included in the composition of these commissions.

As a result of the efforts exerted by the national reconciliation commissions, party and social organizations, and state bodies, 51,000 people have come over to our side and laid down their arms. Some 93,000 people have contacted us and are engaged in talks with the national reconciliation commissions. Regardless of the difficulties and obstacles created by hostile states and governments, 62,000 people have returned home from Iran, Pakistan, and other countries.

All the necessary conditions have been established in our common home for the work and activities of social and political organizations. The state of affairs has been improved in economic and social spheres. Our Armed Forces — that is, our people's power — and guarantees for the territorial integrity of the DRA have been strengthened. Their roles have been enhanced in defense of the country's peaceful life and in giving assistance to the people.

In the lofty interests of the people, in affirmation of the party and government's proposal, and in order to establish nationwide peace and stop the bloodshed, fratricide, and destruction of the country, the National Reconciliation Commission has announced to all the return of compatriots in the establishment of national unity and acoalition government [as heard] and reported this to the world public. By relying on U.S. imperialism, however, extremists have regrettably shown and continue to show hostility toward this great humane cause.

Honorable people of Afghanistan, wherever you are and to whatever nationality and tribe you belong, this land is your cradle. Your fathers and forefathers are buried here. If a person is killed in the war or jailed; if the air of the homeland is polluted or bridges, schools, etc, are destroyed; if the children of this land do not receive an education; if its natural resources are lost, then the loss of these resources -- the wealth of the people -- affects that people. Such a situation is unjust, for the people will eventually have to pay the price.

Let us wisely, intelligently, and courageously stop the bloodshed, end this tragic and destructive episode, lay down our arms, and sit down together to seek an honorable and pleasant path for the people's lives and the progress of the country. This is the view and proposal of the National Reconciliation Commission. The National Reconciliation Commission considers itself responsible to the people and the homeland and is prepared to work for the practical implementation of this proposal. It is ready to put itself and all those who are inside or outside the country and who claim to be patriots and humanists to the test of time and the people and see just who will serve this humane cause of our people. May the hypocrites be exposed.

This national reconciliation policy has received a great international response. Our foreign friends in the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization and at the Afghanistan-Pakistan talks in Geneva have supported this courageous step by our party and government. People increasingly feel the effect of the aid given by friendly countries, particularly the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union's grants-in-aid provide our villagers with essential goods.

In accordance with proposals from the people and the national reconciliation commissions, the DRA Revolutionary Council and Government have adopted important measures to implement intensively the national reconciliation policy.

The new general military conscription law, new land reform measures, the creation of the Ministry of Returnees Affairs, the principled and reasonable compromises, and dozens of other measures were warmly welcomed by the people. By supporting the new initiatives of the June plenum of the PDPA Central Committee, the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission regards them as an effective step to speed up the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation. The commission invites the opposition to manifest goodwill and responsibility.

However, world imperialism and regional reaction, headed by U.S. imperialism, have intensified their hostile position on the policy of national reconciliation and are increasing their aid to the extremist opposition. They supply them with Stingers and other modern weaponry in order to continue the war and to help Afghans annihilate Afghans. Our people and all the peoples of

the world are witnesses to the fact that two AN-26 aircraft were shot down by the extremists in Khowst and Shah Juy District, Zabol Province, martyring 91 defenseless people including women, children, and the elderly. They killed nine members of national reconciliation commissions and the imam of the Qarghah'i (Mobarak) Mosque who were struggling for the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the homeland. The violation of Afghanistan's airspace by two U.S.-made F-16 aircraft once again showed the aggressive face of America.

We, the members of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission, have heard with great interest the speech of esteemed Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who assessed the methods and specified the future direction of our activities. We express our full support for the practical activities of the PDPA Central Committee, the government, and the Revolutionary Council. With the people's support, the policy of national reconciliation will open new horizons to the people of Afghanistan. The second session of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission demands that its members better organize the work of national reconciliation commissions in the localities, intensively implement the national reconciliation policy in accordance with a specific plan, and travel to the provinces to assist the local national reconciliation commissions.

The second session of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission announces to international imperialism and its allies -- headed by U.S. imperialism -- that the risen people of Afghanistan have not bowed to any arrogant power. The commission calls on U.S. imperialism to take its dirty, bloodstained hands off Afghanistan. It calls on Iran and Pakistan to show a correct and reasonable attitude toward our country. We await their responsible approach.

We, the participants of the second session of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission, reaffirm our full support for the statement approved by us and the Revolutionary Council on 3 January 1987, and we invite all compatriots to act in accordance with it.

The second session of the National Reconciliation Commission, on the basis of demands from people, the reconciliation commissions, and various armed opposition groups, requests that the Revolutionary Council extend the cease-fire until Afghanistan's Independence Day [28 August]. The commission also invites the noble people of Afghanistan to work harder to secure peace in Afghanistan. The DRA Armed Forces should seriously observe the Revolutionary Council statement and fire only in response to attacks and on military bases and convoys of arms and ammunition.

We, the participants of the second session, invite all those who have left their homeland for various reasons and who are living in exile to return home with Afghan pride. The motherland's arms await you. The valleys, the mountains, and every rock of the homeland invite you. We also address those brothers who have not yet realized the inhuman and anti-Islamic nature of imperialism: It is not too late. The motherland invites you and needs your active and creative work. The second session of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission requests that all peace-loving countries, the Islamic and Arab countries, and international organizations expose the reactionary acts of international imperialism and assist in resolving the issues of the situation around Afghanistan.

The heroic people of Afghanistan will achieve their goals! National reconciliation will be victorious!

Revolutionary Council Views Draft Law on Parties

LD292027 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] An extraordinary session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium was chaired by Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council and acting president of the Presidium. The session was held this afternoon at the Gol Khanah Palace, the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium discussed the draft law on political parties in the DRA with regard to their formation and function. In order to study this matter comprehensively, a commission was appointed by the Presidium to analyze the draft of the law on political parties and to submit the final draft as soon as possible to the future session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium also discussed proposals for pardoning and reducing the sentences of several prisoners and its various [words indistinct]. In order to implement the policy of national reconciliation and to maintain nationwide peace in the country, the Revolutionary Council Presidium assessed the background of the convicts who come under the articles of Decree No 37, dated 26 April 1987, concerning the release of Armed Forces personnel and those under conscription and call up [words indistinct] approved the extension of the date of enforcement of Decree No 37 until 19 August 1987.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium session also discussed the distribution of a number of badges and medals of the DRA to those entitled to receive them. It also discussed organizational matters. A series of resolutions were passed in this regard.

Security Forces Seize Ammunition, Weapons

LD282014 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] BIA reports that a quantity of weapons and ammunition, which had been stored by extremist opposition groups in the Arghandi region of Paghman District in order to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots, was recently seized by the security forces.

According to the report, the peaceloving people of Paghman District contacted the National Reconciliation Commission about the existence of weapons and ammunition belonging to extremist elements stored in the Arghandi area. Observing the terms of the cease-fire, the security forces entered the area and the aforementioned weapons and ammunition including [words indistinct] 60 rounds of rocket launchers, and 1 mortar mine were seized.

Dhaka Reportedly Paralyzed by 12-Hour Strike

BK300645 Hong Kong AFP in English
0631 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] Dhaka, June 30 (AFP) — A strike called by the opposition virtually paralysed Bangladesh's capital Tuesday. Many offices, shops and market stalls in this city of five million were closed and there were few vehicles on the streets.

The opposition called the half-day strike to protest against the government's new budget and back demands that the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad resign.

More than 20 parties supported the strike including the Eight-Party Alliance led by Sheikh Hasina which is dominated by the Awami League, the Seven-Party Grouping headed by Begum Khaleda Zia and the rightist Jamiyat-i Islami.

The stoppage came a week after a similar half-day strike against the government.

The strike coincided with the ruling Jatiya Party's efforts to get the budget — which proposes new taxes expected to bring in about 140 million dollars — voted by Parliament Tuesday. Jatiya has 215 seats in the 330-member house.

Opposition figures say the taxes would raise transport costs and rail fares and also double educational fees in government schools and colleges and hospital charges. The taxes would also jack up prices of essentials such as tea, milk products, sugar, edible oil and gas for cooking, they say.

The president, apparently in response to the opposition protests, held an emergency Cabinet meeting Monday and later Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told Parliament that the government had decided to amend the tax proposals. Details were expected Tuesday.

The opposition parties had originally indicated that Tuesday's strike would be limited to Dhaka. But they had not pressed this point, apparently encouraged by the success of last week's strike around the country, observers noted.

Tuesday's stoppage also hit Chittagong, the country's second city, a resident told *Agence France-Presse* by telephone. Only police vehicles were on the streets and most shopping centers were closed, he said.

New Import-Export Policy Announced 29 Jun

BK290822 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] The commerce minister explained the objectives of the import-export and tea policies of the next fiscal year at a news conference in Dhaka this morning.

Mr M.A. Munim said the objective for the import policy is to discourage the import of nonessential items, liberalize the import of raw materials and machinery spares, and ensure price stability by maintaining smooth supply of consumer goods. The commerce minister described the import policy as pragmatic, intended to boost the national economy and increase more job opportunities.

The import of raw materials for small industries has been made liberal to help the growth of these industries. The import policy also aims at expanding trade and commerce and giving the importers all possible assistance to help them play their dual role in national economy. Necessary steps have been taken to protect the interest of the country's textile industry. Steps will also be taken to make proper use of production capacity and improve the efficiency and quality of products in the industrial sector.

The procedures for the import policy will be made liberal and streamlined for proper implementation, he added. He said the export target of the outgoing year is expected to exceed by about $46 million. The new export policy and target have been formulated keeping in view the performance and success of the outgoing year.

The commerce minister said the objective of the new policy is to narrow the gap between the export earnings and import bills. Under the new policy, efforts will be explored and the existing ones consolidated. More delegations will be sent abroad to explore new markets for our products.

About the new tea policy, Mr M.A. Mumnim said the export earning is expected to increase by about 33 percent in dollars in the next fiscal year. [passage omitted]

Gandhi on Bofors Scandal, Punjab, Other Issues
BK261614 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English
30 Jun 87 pp 21-27

["Excerpts" from interviews of Rajiv Gandhi with *India Today* editor Aroon Purie and senior editor Prabhu Chawla on board his official aircraft and at his official residence — dates not given]

[Text] Q. Now that the Audit Bureau report has confirmed that payments have been made by Bofors, how do you think it has affected the Government's credibility?

A. We feel that, to a great extent, the Swedish Government's report has vindicated what we have said. We had said that no middlemen were to be kept and it has been confirmed that there were no middlemen at the point of signing the contract. Now, unfortunately, they have paid 2 per cent to 3 per cent in the winding up of an earlier middleman appointed in 1977. We feel that we could have a 2 percent to 3 percent lower rate. The gun is a good weapon. There is no dispute about that.

The other basic question is how middlemen operate in any government. Although we were aware that a lot of things were going on, we were not able to put our hands on them. From 1980, we have taken a series of measures, especially in defence. As we take more steps, we find out more and we take further steps. The target is to eliminate them. Before this question came up in public, I had asked the Finance Ministry to do a full exercise on how to get to the root of all this. I received a note a couple of days ago on steps we should take and I have okayed them. Now we want to keep the actions we want to take quiet — otherwise somebody will try and thwart them.

Q. There is a feeling that the Government is dragging its feet in investigating the Bofors affair. What have you done personally on this score?

A. When we were replying on the issue in Parliament, we could have easily continued to take the stand that unless some hard information was available, we could do nothing. But we didn't wait. My office asked for an inquiry, spoke to Prime Minister Carlson's office, and then I spoke to Carlson. I thanked him for all that they had done. We didn't want to go into the sort of inquiry they would have because we did not want to complicate their system. Though we did feel a little upset that they have gone and deleted half the things in the inquiry. Well, not half, but the critical things which could have helped us. Now we are asking them for these, to find a starting point. It is no use going berserk and saying that we will do this and that. We will do it at a critical point after everything else has been sorted out. We cannot behave as a child does. We have to talk to the Swedish Government, to Bofors and try and get information out of them, from what is missing from the report.

Q. Don't you think that a payment of Rs [Rupees] 50 crore means that it is not purely an agent's commission, that there were other pay-offs?

A. Let me tell you what I feel has happened. Whoever signed the agent's contract in 1977 must have signed for some absurdly high figure. And that is why the winding up has cost 2 per cent.

Q. Don't you find it strange that the payments for the termination of the agent's contract were made in November-December '86, six months after the Bofors deal was signed?

A. No, I don't see that as a complication, because a part of the payment for cancellation would come as a part of their agent's contract. But the fact is that they have done it. There were no middlemen when we signed the contract.

Q. Do you have any ideas about where the Rs 50 crore could have gone?

A. We will chase it through the parliamentary committee. That doesn't mean that we are not acting on the hard facts we have. The agent was mentioned in the revenue intelligence report and action has been taken.

Q. Why was he allowed to leave the country?

A. He left earlier. What could we have done at that stage — arrest him? We must go through the full legal procedure. There must be no short-cuts. We will chase the matter with Bofors, the Swedish Government and the Swiss for information. Whatever information we have got has been at our instigation. We put it up to the parliamentary committee because it is the most open kind of forum. Opposition members will be involved.

Q. Wouldn't it have been more effective if the Government had found out the facts and taken the issue to its logical conclusion? The appointment of the parliamentary committee seems a side-step.

A. No, it is not a side-step. The question is not so much of what is being done. The Government must be seen not to be hiding something. What will, in fact, happen is that the parliamentary committee may not be able to carry out this investigation; it will ask the government agencies for help. Then we will be working with them.

Q. How hopeful are you of identifying the people who received the payments?

A. We will have to wait and watch over the next 10 to 15 days. We will study the report in terms of the law and on that basis we will ask the Swedish Government and Bofors for further information. When we get those answers we will know exactly how hard we will have to fight to get to the other end. We are determined to get to the other end.

Q. Have you thought of cancelling the contract?

A. The Defence Ministry categorically says no. Others will jack up the price and delay deliveries. We will have a serious problem. Pakistan has already got the weapons; it has people trained to handle them. The Defence Ministry is very clear that this would cause a serious flaw in our defence capability. You have seen how quickly the situation flared up within 10 to 15 days in January.

Q. Will you ask Bofors to return the Rs 50 crore?

A. We can take this up with Bofors.

Q. Since the Bofors pay-offs have gone into Swiss accounts, what steps does the Government propose to take to detect accounts held by Indians abroad?

A. This is a problem area. But we are working out the details so that we can have some arrangement to get details about illegal accounts in Swiss banks or anywhere else. A group in the Finance Ministry will go into it. Whenever we have evidence, we shall take the sternest possible action.

Q. When you became prime minister you had declared that the Government would come down heavily on economic offenders. After the shifting of V.P. Singh from the Finance Ministry, the impression is that your Government is rather slow on this front. Do you agree?

A. I really do not know. Even before V.P. Singh was shifted, the media was creating an impression that he was facing difficulties. This was totally incorrect. But the impression was being deliberately created. V.P. Singh is aware that I needed him in defence. I had a talk with him about why I wanted him shifted and I think there is no doubt in his mind that it was not a case of removing V.P. Singh from finance, but one of putting V.P. Singh in defence.

Q. But what went wrong? Why was your relationship strained?

A. It is wrong to say that relations between us were strained. He was carrying out our policies and I had full trust in him.

Q. Was he a good finance minister?

A. On the whole, the economy did well, but there were areas where a lot more attention was needed.

Q. Do you think that his resignation from the Cabinet was a loss to you?

A. Losing any senior minister like V.P. Singh is definitely a loss. But I didn't drop him. He resigned.

Q. Why didn't you stop the party MPs who were making personal attacks on him?

A. There is a limit to which you can control the party. The party does have a mind of its own. I can give instructions but the party will react only if it agrees with what I think. If tomorrow I decide that we totally reverse our foreign policy the party is not going to agree with me. The party reacted because of certain things that had happened in the Lok Sabha. And the party's reaction was so violent that I don't think I could have controlled it.

Q. But why was he virtually forced to resign?

A. We did not force him to resign. He resigned himself.

Q. Do you feel that he committed a mistake in hiring Fairfax and in giving complete authority to his official?

A. Now, this question is before a commission. Let it carry out its job.

Q. But the commission is working in secrecy which was not the idea.

A. Let the commission decide its course of action.

Q. Would you like an open inquiry?

A. That is why we set up the commission, to make it absolutely clear that we have nothing to hide from the public. I must add that some statements coming from people belonging to that company are highly questionable.

Q. On the domestic front, are you more comfortable with the President now?

A. I won't discuss that relationship in public.

Q. Do you believe that the President doesn't have the right to seek information from the Government?

A. The Government has never denied that the President has a right to seek information. The question is how much, when and the kind of information. On that, the government has a definite point of view. And it is not Rajiv Gandhi's point of view. It is the Government of India's point of view, which has been formed during the last 36 years. It has been formed on the basis of what Panditji said and did, on what the Supreme Court has done and what our attorneys have advised. It is a historical fact.

Q. The question is whether you concede that the President has the right to information or not.

A. Kindly look at Article 78. It is not a question of conceding any right. It is the government's obligation under the Constitution to inform the President of decisions. We are doing that. If the President needs any other information with regard to government decisions and legislation, we are giving that also. But all these issues have to be looked at within the broad framework of our constitution.

Q. It looks though that the problem between you and the President is a personal one and has nothing to do with principles.

A. There is no problem between Giani Zail Singh and Rajiv Gandhi.

Q. You continue to have problems in other areas. Do you think the dismissal of the Akali government will solve the Punjab problem?

A. As I said, President's rule there is meant for taking hard action against those extremists who are beyond retrieval.

Q. But will you be able to contain them with a show of force? Don't you think that it is a political problem also?

A. The house is not dissolved. I agree there is a political problem — the problem of dealing with a communal and theocratic conception of society and state. That has to be dealt with at the ideological level. We shall carry on that campaign in cooperation with other parties. But the problem of violence is equally impor-

tant. Violence has to be put down. President's rule has to show firmness in action.

Q. Isn't the Barnala group now likely to join the other side?

A. They were good in the beginning. They are out now. They had become part of the other groups. We supported them till the last moment. But they failed to contain terrorism.

Q. With the ouster of Barnala government isn't the Punjab accord dead?

A. No, it's not dead. Eleven points of the Punjab accord have already been implemented. Only three — Chandigarh, water and the All India Gurudwara Act remain. The Eradi Commission has given a report which gives more water to Punjab.

Q. But the terrorism today is no longer related to these disputes.

A. That is right. I think what Punjab needs today is vigorous economic development and rebuilding of trust and social cohesion. We need to reach out and find out the problem of those groups which have not crossed the boundary yet.

Q. Shouldn't the government try to end the violence by talking to the boys who command a following?

A. We haven't spoken to any of these groups yet.

Q. But do you intend to?

A. Let's see how the President's rule fares.

Q. Was the timing of President's rule linked to the Haryana elections?

A. Not at all. If we did not want President's rule we could have avoided it. But two things happened which forced Central intervention. The first was that the fundamentalists had prachar sabhas. [Propaganda meetings] They forced the closure of liquor shops, haircutting saloons, and even banned dresses, among other things. And it started in new areas. Then, we had an open attack by a senior member of the government on the police chief. That was not acceptable. We felt that something had to be done to restore confidence in the police and enough was not being done by the local government.

Q. So it was purely a law and order problem which compelled you?

A. Bad law and order situation is one thing but break down of the police system was a serious matter. We could not ignore it.

Q. Are you satisfied with the performance of the police and administration?

A. We believe it has improved but it is too early to say anything — we must watch for a longer time.

Q. Can you name the foreign forces which you say are active in Punjab.

A. I am not going to name them. But they are definitely active there. It is known all over the country now.

Q. Is trouble in Punjab also part of the destabilisation design?

A. Punjab has been part of that for a long time.

Q. You always refer to America as part of the destabilisation conspiracy.

A. I never referred to America.

Q. But why are you on a bash America binge?

A. It is not an anti-America binge but it is a question of where we think our problems are coming from.

Q. You are not getting enough support from the USSR on many issues.

A. We are an independent country. We don't look for support like that. We do get support on international issues.

Q. No one has come out in our support on Sri Lanka.

A. I think by and large the international community has understood that we were interested only in humanitarian relief. The problem in Sri Lanka has to be settled through negotiations. India is involved and India is concerned because what happens with regard to the ethnic problem affects us in a very important way. Therefore, we have dealt with it bilaterally and that is the way in which we shall continue.

Q. In Sri Lanka, the situation has drastically changed — to our disadvantage. Do you agree?

A. No. it has not changed. The basic policy which we had with Sri Lanka is still the same. We want a settlement across the table. And the settlement has to be within the constitutional framework of Sri Lanka. We will not support the Eelam concept.

Q. But in spite of all our efforts, the situation has deteriorated to a point where we have violated Sri Lankan airspace. Was this justified?

A. The situation deteriorated because Sri Lanka thought they could work on the military option. Sometimes we wonder whether this whole exercise of getting the parties together across the table was not used by Sri Lanka to buy time for the military solution. This has caused the problem. They agree to something, then they go back on that. They again agree partially, but again change their mind. It is the Sri Lankan flippant attitude which has caused all these tensions. There is a lot of vacillation on their part. But we hope they will see the futility of the military option and return to the dialogue.

Q. How can we support the Tamil Nadu Government giving financial support to Tamil separatists?

A. MGR [M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu State] has given aid on humanitarian considerations for running

relief camps. There are over a lakh Tamil refugees in India. But we are confident that Tamils in Sri Lanka are fully competent to look after themselves. The shutting off of food supplies and the economic blockade is causing them serious problems. That is why we are sending some humanitarian relief.

Q. If a similar thing happened in Punjab, then?

A. There is really no parallel. The Sikhs are not against the Government. We are not fighting with them. A small group is perpetrating violence and we are dealing with it. But we are not bombing a whole people. We are not shutting off their food supplies, we are not denying them medicines. Sri Lanka is doing all these things to its own people. This is why we had to decide to help the longsuffering people. In our relief there was nothing hidden. It was open for anybody's inspection.

Q. Coming to communalism, the general belief is that it is due to the Government's appeasement policy.

A. We are not appeasing these forces. I have called for a national movement to fight communalism which has assumed serious dimensions now. The National Integration Council should have a good look and suggest what should be done. Violence has to be controlled and put down firmly. But the problem is deeper. It has to do with education, with politics and with the pattern of economic development. It is complex, but I am determined to tackle it. I cannot allow the hard won legacy of communal unity to be undermined.

Q. But why can't we ban communal parties and stop selecting candidates according to religion and caste?

A. You will recall we had put this in the President's Address in February 1987. There has to be a national consensus. We cannot legislate without overwhelming national consensus that religious and communal groups should be totally banned from politics.

Q. Even in the economic field you seem to be defensive on liberalisation. The Government is returning to its old policy of controls.

A. Some sections of the media have got it wrong. Our strategic policy of planning — and planning envisages controls of one sort or another — remains unchanged. Within that we have to make adjustments to deal with new circumstances and new situations. That is what we have done. It is wrong to label it as this or that. The baisc thrust is on modernisation, technology upgradation, efficiency and improving the competitive ability of Indian industry. This does not mean that we shall jettison our fundamental policy of self-reliance and safeguarding economic independence.

Above all, in everything we do, our fundamental concern is the alleviation of poverty. This means we have to step up the rate of growth. Growth of agriculture, growth of mass consumption goods, spread of the public distribution system, land reforms, special programmes for the landless and for small and marginal farmers, have priority in my thinking. All this has nothing to do with the so-called liberalisation. This is a matter of planning our investment in the right direction. You cannot leave this to the market forces, because the market forces can only accentuate poverty, not alleviate it. We have a resource constraint. With these priorities in the plan we need to enlarge our resource base. This is where liberalisation comes in.

Q. But the capital market has collapsed and profits of major industries have been plummeting during the last few months.

A. Temporary ups and downs in the capital market should not be taken as a major trend. The economy is sound and the policies we are pursuing will lead to healthy industrial growth. The stockmarket will reflect, sooner than later, the underlying health of the economy.

A. It was not a slogan. We have to move doggedly, persistently towards modernising our agriculture and industry. We are working in that direction. This is a historical trend, not a slogan.

Q. Another problem for you seems to be your party which is in a shambles and in which you have been unable to conduct organisational elections. When do you propose to do that?

A. It it not correct that the party is in a shambles: it is active and vigorous. But we solve them. Elections will be held as soon as Dikshitji reports on the corrective steps to be taken.

Q. You promised some degree of decentralisation in the party and the Government but there seems to be a growing concentration of power.

A. All this talk of concentration of power is so much nonsense. There is the widest degree of participation both in the party and in the Government in decisionmaking. There is more autonomy in decisionmaking at the level of ministries than ever before.

Q. How do you cope with so many departments with you? When do you propose to expand the Cabinet?

A. There will be cabinet reorganisation. But you can't expect me to tell you when.

Q. Or are you holding it up because you don't want to disturb the political balance in the party till the presidential elections?

A. I will do it at the right time.

Q. How are you going to select your nominee for the presidential elections?

A. I am consulting political parties and others. I do not know whether there will be consensus on our candidate but I will consult all those who have to be consulted.

Q. What were the problems with Arun Nehru? Were they personal or political?

A. I have no problems with him.

Q. Do you agree with your partymen who say V.P. Singh was trying to emerge as an alternative leader?

A. It is for the party to choose who shall lead it.

Q. Do you feel that the worst is over and the party is fully behind you?

A. The party is united. It is a great privilege to lead a party as rich in history and tradition as the Congress is. It has a tradition of rising to every crisis. I have no doubt that the party will back me in carrying out its policies.

Q. But the impression persists that you only trust your close friends.

A. I trust everybody in the party. And, in fact, there is a total misconception — presumably caused by the media — that I rely on certain people for decisions. In fact, those are not the people whom I trust for decisions at all. When I have to take a political decision, I consult the party set-up, the AICC [All-India Congress-I Committee], Working Committee members, chief ministers and PCC [State Congress-I Committee] presidents. When it is a question of governmental policy-making, it is the Cabinet or the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs as the case may be. There are no small groups or coteries. On almost no political matter Ihave never consulted my personal friends, meaning the friends now involved in politics and who have not come through the Youth Congress or the organisation.

Q. Then, what is their role? They are seen with you quite often.

A. Each one of them has a specific role. I am not going to discuss each role here.

Q. So each one of them is doing some job.

A. Yes, as assigned by me.

Q. Are you satisfied with their performance?

A. One is never satisfied fully with performance. If one was fully satisfied then, in a way, your mind is dead. To a great degree, yes. But to a certain extent there are shortcomings.

Q. Have they helped you improve your image?

A. Image as opposed to work?

Q. Image as a leader and a prime minister.

A. In some areas yes, in some areas no.

Q. In which areas has it been bad?

A. For this I will have to discuss individuals which I don't want to do here.

Q. Have your friends proved to be a liability or an asset?

A. In some ways assets, in some ways liabilities.

Q. Among your friends, Satish Sharma and Amitabh Bachchan have been involved in a lot of controversies. What is your opinion?

A. I don't read what appears in the press. Much of what appears in the press is not based on correct information.

Q. But what is your personal opinion about their conduct? Do you agree with what has appeared about their life-styles and business activities abroad?

A. My attitude is very clear. Neither of them is handling any political task. Satish looks after Amethi only, and that is a very limited exercise. But if they have done anything wrong now or in the past, they are absolutely accountable and I want to assert that law of the land is the law of the land. It will not be waived, bent or softened for anybody in the country.

Q. Don't you agree that Ajitabh Bachchan's shifting of residence or business to Switzerland should be looked into? Has he taken the reserve Bank's permission?

A. If anything is brought to our notice we must treat him like any other citizen. But he is much more visible than any ordinary citizen and must get his rights like any other citizen. However, if any specific information is given to us that he has done something wrong we will act on it. In fact, when a senior official from the Finance Ministry came to me and told me that he was looking into the economic activities of certain individuals. I told him to go ahead without fear.

Q. But have you sought Ajitabh's explanation for his business activities abroad?

A. I have not discussed this with him but I am sure that the Finance Ministry will look into the matter if anything is wrong.

Q. You are in the middle of your term now. What are your successes and failures?

A. I think we have made tremendous gains on almost every front. On foreign policy, India has seldom had a problem in international forums. It is not something I have done. It is only because I have been able to stand on the shoulders of others before me and have been able to go further. On the economic front, our economy is moving very well. Yes, there are some negative indicators. But I think they are under control and we can cope with them.

Q. You now seem to be deliberately adopting a leftist posture. What is the reason?

A. There is no reversal. In '85 I spoke more about imperialism than I have done at any time after that. If you see in all my international speeches, even in my speech to the U.S. Congress, it has always been there. What has happened is that the media here has picked up only one aspect of it. Right from the beginning I was saying the public sector is important — it is a key to our development and will continue to be the key. What we are looking for is a change in its role. While the media was talking only about the private sector, we were investing more in the public sector than any other government.

Q. What have you learnt during your tenure as prime minister?

A. I am much the wiser.

Q. The general feeling is that you have changed from being a person who relied on his instincts and commonsense to one who is getting into the usual politician's mould.

A. No, I am not getting into any old mould. I am very much in the same mould as I was. I still function very much on what I think is right.

But then, as now, I take in a lot of input from a lot of people. What has changed is that I have changed a lot of the people I used to get inputs from ministers, from the party and for economic issues from many people outside. We started a lot of things but they got bogged down in the bureaucracy. It went down to a certain level, perhaps the joint secretary level. By the time the policies went down, they were not what we had started off with. They were so diluted, that they were neither here nor there and had little effect. So we started a major exercise of revitalising the bureaucracy. I think it is having a tremendous effect. It is not a question of indoctrination but of getting them to have a little more vitality, of being more active. Each individual has it in him but somehow the system does not allow them to function.

Q. But a lot of them should not even be doing even the things that they are doing. Perhaps the system requires surgery.

A. In any such thing I think too sharp an action can destroy everything. We must look around and see how many countries have been destroyed. They have lost their democracy and freedom because they did things too fast and did not balance them. I don't think a harsh change is going to work. It should be a change in which we can carry the people with us.

Q. Are you as trusting as before? Do you work with the same enthusiasm?

A. I am less trusting because I found major shortcoming in many areas where I had placed trust; not personal things but relating to work. But I do not feel let down because I don't see a person as letting me down: I see myself as having misjudged him. But yes, I work with the same enthusiasm. I feel that I have only been elected because I have cetain ideas, and I must put them through. What has been happening in the last two to three years is that the methods of implementing these ideas have had to be modified slightly. Because when you start doing something you hit a wall. Either you break down the wall or you achieve the same thing in a different way.

Q. How do you perceive your public popularity now? You were on a high two-and-a-half years ago. Do you see yourself lower down in the graph today?

A. We were expecting this right from '85. In mid-election you are always at the lowest. What we started in '85 was not just a question of liberalisation or rationalisation. What we really attacked was all the vested interests in the system — whether in politics, bureaucracy or industry. So we opened out all the fronts. One can say why did you open up all the fronts, you should have chosen one at a time. We looked at it but the fact is that one led to the other. When we took this on it was very clear that the vested interests would hit back at some time. We had started calculating in '85 when this would be and our assessment was that it would be somewhere in the beginning of '87 — during the budget session because it is the hot part as Parliament is in session. We were a little surprised when one volley came in middle and late '86.

Q. What was this volley?

A. I am not telling you; you find out. But then it all died down and it all started coming in January. That was a bit earlier than we had expected I mean, if you ask me whether it was Fairfax or anything else was going to come, I had no idea, but we knew that some major onslaught would come roughly during this time — and it has come.

Q. Since what and how it has come about could not possibly have been foreseen, how could you have expected it?

A. If you go back and look at history, during Panditji's [Jawaharlal Nehru] period and during Indiraji's [Indira Gandi] period — the early years — they have been through very similar things.

Q. Is the worst over?

A. I think we will be through all this once the President's election is over.

Q. Are you relating it to the election?

A. No, I am not saying it is related but we had a vote in Bengal and other places. And we have a vote now. A vote is always a high tension point and the presidential election will be the last vote for some time.

Q. Besides all these weighty problems, there seems to be some concern about your driving habits. Why do you drive so fast?

A. Because I drive better than all the drivers.

Gandhi Answers Questions Posed by Correspondents

Outlines USSR Visit Schedule

BK291250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] An agreement on science and technology is to be signed during the prime minister's Moscow visit beginning from Thursday. The agreement follows high-level visits between scientists and experts of the two countries since the New Delhi visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. This was disclosed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi while answering questions at a meeting of the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents in the capital today.

While in Moscow, Mr Gandhi will inaugurate the Festival of India. He will have two rounds of talks with Mr Gorbachev at which bilateral, regional and global issues are likely to figure. He

will also be meeting the Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov. Mr Gandhi returns home on Saturday [4 July].

Answering questions at the meeting, the prime minister said the relations between India and the Soviet Union had never been as strong as today. He said relations with the United States and China have also improved a lot in the last 2 and 1/2 years. He, however, agreed that there is a need to raise the level of the Sino-Indian border talks to political level to find a solution.

Discusses PRC Border Issue

BK291606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that more political initiatives are needed if real progress is to be made in Sino-Indian talks. He was answering questions by members of the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents in New Delhi today. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said a broader perspective is being built into the relations between the two countries. However, the border question will still remain a major issue. He said a lot has been gained by the official-level talks, but these have not progressed as fast as we would have liked. He said there is no confrontation on the Sino-Indian border as made out by the Western media, and both countries are looking for a solution to the problem.

During the 80-minute question-answer session, Mr Gandhi covered a wide range of foreign policy issues including Pakistan's nuclear weapon program, the Sri Lankan situation, the Bofors deal and India's relations with its neighbors.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi said that according to his information, Pakistan did not possess a nuclear bomb yet. However, Islamabad is actively working in that direction. On Pakistan's move to acquire AWACs, Mr Gandhi said: No matter what they do, our defense will never be compromised.

On Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said India has tentatively decided upon various options to solve the ethnic crisis in the island. We are waiting for a clear direction from Colombo on how the Sri Lankan Government wants to resolve it. He said the air dropping of relief supplies by India over Jaffna had not affected India's image abroad in any way.

Answering questions on Indo-U.S. relations, the prime minister pointed out that there is a lot of improvement in the last 2 and 1/2 years. On purchase of a super computer from the United States, Mr Gandhi said a final decision will be taken after receiving the report of a technical committee on the subject.

On the Bofors deal, the prime minister disclosed that India has written to the Swedish Government to release certain deleted portions of the Audit Bureau report. He said the government is yet to receive a reply from the Bofors Company about the names of the persons involved in the deal. The proposed parliamentary committee will look into the deal and the government will do whatever is required.

Mr Gandhi said an agreement on science and technology between India and the Soviet Union will be signed during his Moscow visit beginning from Thursday [2 July]. The agreement follows high-level visits between scientists and experts of the two countries since the New Delhi visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. He said relations between India and the Soviet Union had never been as strong as today. While in Moscow, Mr Gandhi will have two rounds of talks with Mr Gorbachev at which bilateral, regional and global issues are likely to figure. He will also be meeting the Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov. Along with Mr Gorbachev, Mr Gandhi will inaugurate the Festival of India. Mr Gandhi returns home on Saturday [4 July].

Protest Lodged With Bangladesh Over Demonstration

BK291610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] India today lodged two protests with Bangladesh for making fabricated allegations about killing of its nationals by the Border Security Force [BSF] and for failing to prevent a demonstration outside the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. The protest notes were handed over to the Bangladesh acting high commissioner, Mr Ahmed Tarik Karim, who was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi. An official spokesman described as baseless and fabricated Bangladesh allegations that the BSF had killed 11 civilians and 7 Bangladesh Rifles personnel in two separate incidents. The protest over violent demonstration by about 30 people outside the Indian High Commission building on Saturday said the law enforcement agencies did not take any action to prevent the demonstrators from damaging high commission's property.

Pipeline Bypassing Gulf Being Built 'Secretly'
AU290718 Paris AFP in English 0055 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Paris, June 29 (AFP) — Iran is secretly building a pipeline to channel oil southwards to the Gulf of Oman, so that its oil exports can avoid crossing the war-stricken Persian Gulf, a specialist periodical reported here. The magazine *Petrostrategies* said the project, on which 5,000 people are working, began early last year and is expected to be finished in early 1988.

The pipeline, carrying one million barrels a day, leads southwards from the Gach Garan region northwest of Shiraz in western Iran, towards the Gulf of Oman.

The report did not say whether foreign companies were involved in the construction, but said that piping had been bought at "high prices" from West Germay, Japan and South Korea.

Petrostrategies said the work was the fruit of Iranian studies in recent years on how to reduce its dependence on the Khark Island terminal in the north of the Gulf, which handles 90 per cent of Iran's crude exports. Both Khark Island and the Iranian-chartered tankers carrying crude to a standby terminal at Larak in the Strait of Hormuz have come under regular Iraqi attack.

The construction of the pipeline would mean the end of a "war of the tankers" which according to *Petrostrategies* is costing Tehran annually between 1.5 billion and 1.8 billion dollars. It would also reduce the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, the periodical said.

Prime Minister Attacks U.S. Role in Gulf
LD281822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Correspondent's report from Hormozgan Province]

[Text] We have stood firm and steadfast in the Strait of Hormuz. We are not going to surrender, and no power, international organization, and imperialist mass media can force us to retreat by creating an adverse climate. We are victorious and the world shall witness our victory within the framework of our history of martyrdom and selflessness. This was said this afternnon by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, who had gone to Bandar-e 'Abbas to inspect the current activities in Hormozgan Province and to inspect the great "Zolfaqar-2" maneuver, while attending a session of the administrative council of Hormozgan Province.

He said: Our nation has had a great revolution. There were big conspiracies against this revolution, particularly the conspiracy to martyr 72 of the nation's best people. But we never gave up our resistance and steadfastness. Now that the Strait of Hormuz has become the most sensitive area in the world and we are being pressured to surrender, we are standing firm and will not surrender. As the imam of the ummah has graciously said: Our job is to perform our duty and God will arrange our affairs. We shall stand firm, God willing, and we shall be victorious.

Addressing the officials attending the administrative council of Hormozgan Province, Mr Musavi said: Hormozgan Province, its islands and its people, along with the rest of the Muslim ummah, must now stand firm against all conspiracies of U.S. imperialism and against hirelings and puppets -- the reactionary kings and affiliated shaykhs. Our nation of 50 million people is confronting U.S. imperialism, with its 300 million people, the CIA, its allies, nuclear bombs, and its huge warships. The United States wants to force our nation to retreat, but it will not succeed, it will be defeated. These are days of self-sacrifice, particularly in the Persian Gulf.

Referring to the point that the martyrs of 28 June were killed by the enemies of the Islamic revolution for following the imam's line and for standing firm, Mr Musavi said: We should follow the path of these martyrs. Now the cry of our warriors has reached Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt, and other corners of the world. The enemies and global arrogance -- the United States, the USSR, and other enemies of the Islamic revolution -- are terrified. But our nation's fearlessness brings us one victory after another. Our power is based on the decisive response of our system against global arrogance. Today everyone knows that Islamic Iran is the greatest power in the Persian Gulf, because we stand at a sensitive juncture of the revolution by following divine instructions.

Noting that our enemies are trying to make us give up our slogans, Mr Musavi said: If we study history we realize that only those countries which stood firm against aggression became the big powers of history. We shall continue on our path and never fear anything. We have no alternative but to move forward.

The prime minister added: We should have either an American Gulf or an Islamic Gulf in the Persian Gulf. That is, the Gulf should become either American or Islamic. But do the nations wish to remain subservient and affiliated with the United States? We have no alternative but to fight and struggle against imperialism and, God willing, we will be victorious.

Continuing his remarks, the prime minister stressed that under the present circumstances, along with the struggle for the final victory, we shall never forget the people's problems. He added: Officials, along with the committed clergy, should strive to alleviate people's problems and should strengthen their links. In such deprived regions as the islands of Hormozgan Province, the government has certain plans and it should work harder to end inflation, particularly as it affects the working class. God willing, we shall intensify our efforts and the bottlenecks will be removed by training committed manpower.

Analyzing the country's economy the prime minister said: The government's top priority is to tackle the problems of distribution, decisively confront overcharging and hoarding, and create more units to control distribution. This requires the cooperation and assistance of every individual.

The prime minister added: Some steps have been taken in the economic sector this year. If we wish to have the people on our side, we should hasten to assist them in the struggle against rising prices, overcharging, and hoarding. He went on: Although oil prices have increased, they are still very low compared with $34, and we must still endure economic pressure. With God's help we shall be victorious.

Concluding his remarks, the prime minister condemned Iraqi's chemical bombardment of Sardasht which that country's criminal regime carried out today, saying: By such acts of aggression the blood-sucking regime of Iraq will face final defeat. For the same reason that we continue our resistance, we shall bring the Iraqi regime to its knees, for if that regime is allowed to continue to survive and to strengthen itself, it will commit even more crimes.

At the end of this session, the officials attending the meeting raised various issues and needs of the province. The prime minister made some proposals to eliminate these problems, meet the needs of the province, and establish a technical college to fill the scientific requirements of the region.

The prime minister returned to Tehran tonight after investigating various issues in Hormozgan Province and after meeting the clergy and officials of the province.

Envoy to UN Views Public Opinion Pressure on U.S.

LD281824 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Prov., June 28, IRNA — The Reagan administration "will avoid a direct confrontation" with Muslim forces of Iran in the Persian Gulf because of its knowledge of the situation in the region and because of pressure at home, predicted Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Seyyed Rajai'e-Khorassani on Sunday.

The Iranian official told a news conference in Zabol, in this southeastern province that the postponement of the flying of U.S. flag on Kuwaiti oil tankers was the result of pressure exerted on the Reagan administration by the U.S. Congress and public opinion. Rajai'e-Khorassani said that Iran will respond to any military move by either of the superpowers.

Reflecting on the Soviet support for the Iraqi regime, he said that because of the impending perils at the Persian Gulf, the more the foreign powers involve themselves in the region the more problems they will create for themselves. He expressed hope that Soviets would revise their erroneous evaluation of the situaiton.

On Kuwait's support for Iraq, the Iranian representative said that the Kuwaiti Government would be best advised not to involve itself in the war and instead adopt a position of neutrality.

Referring to some information on Iraq-Kuwait direct and indirect cooperation, Rajai'e-Khorassani warned "the Islamic Republic has thus far behaved towards Kuwait logically and has not yet taken any serious measure against it. It is not possible for Iranian Muslim combatants to remain silent vis-a-vis Iraq-Kuwait cooperation." He expressed hope that the Kuwaiti Government would take a "correct" stand on the Iraqi-imposed war.

Rajai'e-Khorassani described the U.N.'s performance in relation with the Iraqi-imposed war as "not constructive" and said that moves taken by the U.N. Security Council imply that the Council, despite its knowledge of the realities of the Iraqi-imposed war, has so far evaded its responsibility. Therefore, he added, the U.N. is unlikely to take a realistic view on the issue. He made it clear that neither the U.N. nor the Security Council are able to stage manage the Iraqi-imposed war. Rather, he added, it is the Iranians who will decide the end of the war.

The official said that the Iranian "Zolfaqar-2" sea war games in the Persian Gulf were aimed at demonstrating the "tremendous power" of the Navy. The maneuvers, will further convince ships flying the U.S. flag of Iran's might, and it will warn the Americans to think twice before venturing on a rash move in the region, he concluded.

Commentary Warns U.S. Not To Interfere in Gulf

LD271332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Steadfastness of the Islamic Revolution Against the Mischiefs of the Great Satan"]

[Text] The Islamic Revolution of Iran has been able to display in various forms and under varying circumstances its constant efforts to achieve divine objectives despite the entanglements and conflicts which the revolution has left behind.

At present, while passing through a great number of domestic and foreign conspiracies, this revolution is confronted with provocative deeds in the Persian Gulf by the United States. Perhaps Reagan's administration believes it can place the Islamic Republic of Iran in a weak position by deploying its warships in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of restoring security in the region, thus forcing Iran to surrender. It also hopes that Iraq's mischiefs -- attacking civilian ships in the Persian Gulf -- will not elicit any response.

But the facts send a different message to the U.S. Government — a decisive message and one which is stronger than what the United States has so far received. It is true that the Reagan administration has been able to use the fading memory of the United States' defeat in Vietnam to adopt an offensive stand against the freedom-seeking nations of the world under the pretext of renewing U.S. national pride. But this reality also exists: The United States faced a single nation in Vietnam; if it continues its provocative deeds in the Persian Gulf it will face a people — a people who, in an uncompromising way, held firm to their divine beliefs regarding the sanctity of Islam and the preservation of human freedom and dignity. The consequences of such provocative measures will not only affect the United States but will also emerge as an all-embracing assault against the interests of the United States and its allies.

Because the Islamic Revolution insists on defending itself, creating tensions in the region will activate vast forces — forces which are situated all over the region and the world and which are affected by the expanding waves of the center of the revolution.

Therefore, the strategy of the heads of state of the region, which is based on containing the Islamic Revolution by the deterrent force of a superpower, will be transformed into a counterforce against themselves and will emerge in the form of vigorous movements within these countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly stressed the point that preservation of Gulf security must be accomplished by the countries of the region with no superpower interference. This strategy is based on the principle of true independence of the countries of the region. Therefore, any movement which impairs this strategy is bound to encounter strong reaction from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Muslim revolutionaries of the region.

Supreme Court President, Judiciary Meet Khomeyni

LD291326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Supreme Judicial Council President Musavi-Ardabili; Prosecutor General Musavi-Kho'iniha; members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Council's deputy; various chiefs of the Council's branches and of the Ministry of Justice; judges, public prosecutors, and revolution prosecutors; heads of the State Inspection Organization, the judicial organization, the Armed Forces, the Prisons Organization and [words indistinct] organizations; judges and prosecutors in the judiciary police; the Public Prosecution Office and the Revolution Prosecution Office of Tehran; and judges of the Security Prosecution Office and court and some of their personnel were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran.

In the course of the meeting, Supreme Judicial Council President Musavi-Ardabili reported to the imam of the ummah on the country's judicial problems. Afterwards, pointing to some guidelines, Imam Khomeyni prayed for the success of the country's judiciary. We now draw your attention to the details of the meeting:

[Begin Musavi-Ardabili recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the prophets and the imams. Your Excellency, grand ayatollah, the great leader of the revolution, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Your excellency the imam. On behalf of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the judiciary in general, I wish to express my gratitude to your excellency the imam. On behalf of the members of the Supreme Judicial Council and the judiciary in general, I wish to express my gratitude to your excellency for allowing us, your children, your pupils, your devoted friends, to spend a few moments in your presence and imbibe grace. [passage omitted]

I do not wish to take any more of your excellency's time. I must, however, say that we believe your presence among us is like the presence of the honorable prophet [chants of "God's peace and blessing be upon him"] among the Islamic ummah. As God said: As long as the blessed prophet remained among the people, God gave certain immunity to the Islamic ummah. [preceding sentence in Arabic] And your own presence, your life, and your prayers are a blessing from God. While we are discharging our judicial duties, these gentlemen take part at various levels at the battlefronts. where they carry out their duties and pray for your excellency, so that Islam, the Koran, and the revolution may be protected.

I conclude my remarks, waiting for your excellency to say some prayer so that all our problems might be solved. God's peace and blessing be upon everyone. [end recording]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Liberation of Iraq

LD291706 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — It was the Iraqi regime which initiated the war, occupied scores of Iranian cities, levelled to ground 1,200 villages and destroyed countless factories in a bid to topple the Islamic Republic and bring about the disintegration of Iran, said the Majlis speaker on Monday.

Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remark in a speech to a group of Iranian Muslim combatants here where he noted that Iran's war has been defensive up till now and that Iranian forces were fighting the Ba'thist Iraqi regime mainly on behalf of the Iraqi people.

"From now on," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "we should fight to rid the Iraqi people of the Baghdad regime. When Iraq is liberated and Islam reigns supreme there, the Iranian people will cooperate with the Iraqi people to purge the region of the Zionists and the global arrogance and then nobody will dare hatch plots against Islam."

Pointing to the existence of many holy shrines in Iraq, the speaker said the flag of blasphemy cannot for long wave in Iraq noting "The Iraqi people are Muslims with a strong Islamic culture and are therefore against the dirty Ba'th Party ruling their country. The Iraqi people will undoubtedly be liberated", the speaker asserted.

KEYHAN Cited on Extension of Military Service

LD272125 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1754 GMT 27 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 27 (TANJUG) — Military service in Iran's regular Armed Forces has been extended from two to 2 and 1/2 years. Only soldiers who have served one year on the battlefront are exempt from the extension, reports the *Keyhan* evening newspaper today.

Iran's Armed Forces consist of drafted regular troops and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Religious volunteers (Basiji) are under the command of the Corps.

Velayati Interviewed Before Leaving for Vienna

LD290829 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Vienna Monday morning at the head of a political delegation on a three-day official visit and talks with Austrian officials on bilateral relations and international issues.

Speaking to IRNA prior to departure he said the visit is taking place at the invitation of his Austrian counterpart Peter Jankowitsch [name and title as received].

According to Velayati exchange of visits between Iranian and Austrian officials will be increased in the future. Austria, Velayati added, because of its industrial and trade possibilities and as a neutral European country could become a trade and industries partner of Iran. Meanwhile, he added, the Islamic Republic of Iran could export goods to that country. Velayati said technical, industrial and trade ties between the two countries as well as their political cooperation in international fields are to increase in future.

Velayati before leaving for Vienna met and talked with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday.

Foreign Minister Velayati Pays 3-Day Visit to Austria

For reportage on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Austria, including his meetings with President Kurt Waldheim, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, and Foreign Minister Alois Mock, see the Austria section of the 30 June West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Oil Minister Comments on Recent OPEC Conference

NC281228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] The 81st session of the OPEC petroleum ministers' conference has ended. We have a report on this.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The 81st conference of the OPEC petroleum ministers has come to an end. A final communique was issued and Lukman, chairman of the conference, held a news conference at 1100 Vienna time. After 3 days of discussions and meetings, the members decided to accept the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the OPEC production ceiling should be lowered, and it was planned that production for the last quarter of the current Christian year, which had been set at 18.3 million barrels a day, should be reduced to 16.6 million barrels a day.

Observers say that the acceptance of this plan by OPEC members is considered a great and historic victory for Iran and for OPEC in general.

Iraq once again refused to accept the official ceiling, and it was decided that a group consisting of three ministers should visit Iraq within the next 6 months, before the organization's next meeting. Kuwait, which had opposed the production ceiling of 16.6 million barrels for the fourth quarter of the year, ultimately accepted it.

On the outcome of the conference, Mr Aqazadeh, our petroleum minister, spoke to a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

[Aqazadeh]: In the name of God, the Almighty. We succeeded in giving a significant boost to the market. The previous production ceiling of 18.3 million barrels a day was reduced by 1.7 million barrels and we were able to agree on 16.6 million barrels a day. The impact of this will be soon felt in the market and we hope that in the winter we can achieve higher prices for oil.

Among our successes at this conference was the decision to assign a group of ministers to visit countries that are not adhering to their production ceilings and to visit countries like Iraq that have not accepted the ceiling. These ministers are to visit those countries and hold discussions with officials in order to persuade them to carry out the decisions adopted.

Another result of this conference, of great importance to our country, is the serious discussion on the dollar. This discussion was initiated by Iran. Iran made an official proposal to the conference and it was agreed that during the next conference experts will study this in detail and make specific suggestions on (?reducing the impact) of the fall in the dollar on oil prices. We hope that we can solve the problem of the fall in the value of the dollar during our next conference.

At this conference it was also decided to (?discuss) the issue of the secretary general. In view of the fact that during this conference some countries nominated certain candidates, all members were told to introduce their candidates and prepare to reach an agreement on the issue of the secretary general (?during the December conference).

To sum up generally, oil prices from this date onward will enjoy a great degree of stability and (?we will witness) a rise in prices. This will pave the way for further steps related to production ceilings and higher prices.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Reportage on Nicaraguan Parliament President Visit

Arrives in Tehran

NC280700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent reports that at the official invitation of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis], Mr Carlos Nunez, president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, arrived in Tehran at 0100 this morning [2130 GMT]. He is leading a high-ranking political and religious delegation comprising the Nicaraguan minister of education and minister of state for planning [title as heard]. He was welcomed by Deputy Majlis Speaker Yazdi.

After his arrival in Tehran, Mr Nunez spoke to our correspondent about his visit to Iran and said: We have come to Iran to strengthen relations between the two countries and revolutions, to become further acquainted with the current situation in Iran, to inform the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the present situation in Nicaragua, to consolidate relations between the two parliaments, and to convey a message from our president to officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Deputy Majlis Speaker Yazdi also spoke to our correspondent about the visit by the high-ranking Nicaraguan delegation. I invite you to listen to his remarks.

[Begin recording] [Yazdi] In the name of God, the Almighty, the merciful. As you know, this delegation has come to our country in response to our invitation. The delegation consists of officials from the parliament, command, and economic and religious sectors. Primarily, the purpose of this visit is to learn more about each other's revolution. You know that the revolution in Nicaragua took place at about the same time as ours, and the problems they had and still have are similar to our own. It should be noted that one of the main objectives of this visit is for them to become further acquainted with the current situation in our country, as well as toexplain to us the situation in Nicaragua for the purpose of consolidating, expanding, and deepening relations. These are the objectives. During its stay in the Islamic Republic, the delegation will hold meetings and talks that will focus mainly on issues of bilateral relations in various fields.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD282006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 28 Jun 87

[Text] The president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly, who is in Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation at the invitation of the Majlis speaker, met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by the Nicaraguan ministers of culture and planning and Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami, bilateral relations and important international issues were discussed. The president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly voiced his pleasure at visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran and conveyed sincere and warm feelings from himself and his delegation on the 28 June anniversary, saying: This great day has strongly influenced us, because of its precious martyrs. He added: A nation can have many arms, but without faith it will not achieve victory.

He went on to discuss the situation in Central America and U.S. intervention in this region, saying: Despite the pressures put on Nicaragua by the United States in the past 6 months, as well as the arming of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries by the United States, we have gained great victories against the United States and the counterrevolutionaries and have managed to force our enemies back into Honduras.

He also referred to the tricks of the White House aimed at dealing blows against the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Nicaraguan revolution, and said: In our opinion, this trick by the United States, which has become famous as the Iran-contra issue, has weakened Reagan and has dealt heavy blows against him.

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani then welcomed the Nicaraguan delegation and, noting the similarities between the Iranian and Nicaraguan revolutions, said: The strengthening of your revolution, despite the pressures by the United States, shows that the United States can be defeated. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then described U.S. plots in the Persian Gulf and remarked: The United States is now moving toward the brink of an armed encounter with us.

However, we are not concerned at this and believe that the U.S. presence in the war will make our nation even more serious. We are determined to stand and will certainly win. Referring to the dishonor of the White House in the MacFarlane issue, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: When it was discovered that the United States intended to pass the profit from the sales of arms to the contras, we did not pay them $15 million. They had overcharged us and as a result they did not have a lot to give to the contras.

Referring to bilateral relations, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded by voicing the hope that the popular revolution in Nicaragua, using the experiences of the Islamic revolution in Iran, can succeed against its enemies.

Majlis Speaker on Nunez Visit

NC300441 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 30 Jun 87

[Text] At the end of the visit by the Nicaraguan National Assembly president to Iran, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, granted an interview to our correspondent, answering his questions on the outcome of the visit by the Nicaraguan National Assembly president and his accompanying delegation. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, now that the visit of the Nicaraguan National Assembly president's trip to our country has ended, please discuss the outcome of his visit and meetings with our officials.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. The visit to Iran by the president of Nicaraguan National Assembly and the delegation accompanying him presented us with a good opportunity to become further informed about their revolution, which was almost simultaneous with ours, and to discuss both their strong points and problems.

A common issue that presently exists between the two revolutions is the conflict with the United States. As we know, the United States intervenes blatantly and impudently in Nicaraguan affairs; its Congress even approves budgets for the Nicaraguan contras. At the same time, in the Persian Gulf it impudently hoists the U.S. flag on the ships of a country that wants to help our enemy in the war, supports our enemies with its fleet, and resorts to threats and political blackmail. The United States is contending with both revolutions simultaneously, and both our countries face world-devouring U.S. imperialism. Naturally, we should hold more discussions and cooperate more with each other, especially as one of the recent plots of the Americans within the framework of the White House scandal and Mr McFarlane's secret trip to Iran was aimed at upsetting relations between us and the Nicaraguan revolution by alleging that they gave the income from the sale of arms to us to the Nicaraguan

contras. Of course, the income was not that much and the situation is ambiguous, too.

At any rate, we obtained good results from our talks and (?approved) [words indistinct] programs. We agreed to expand our cooperation in the economic, cultural, and political fields, increase exchanges of visits by delegations, and discuss the experiences we have both had in our confrontation with imperialism. We will achieve good results from this cooperation in the future.

I want to thank the Nicaraguan delegation, especially the National Assembly President, Mr Carlos Nunez, for having accepted our invitation and having come here.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Reportage on Recent Operations Against Iraq

Naval Maneuvers in Gulf

LD291650 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., June 29, IRNA — Patrol and reconnaissance operations as well as simulated control and search of suspicious vessels in the Persian Gulf were conducted by Iranian forces in continuation of the large-scale naval maneuvers in the Persian Gulf waters and Hormuz Strait here today. The manuevers, code named "Zolfaqar", began in the region last Tuesday and involves scores of Iranian Naval craft as well as Air Force fighter bombers. "Zolfaqar" was a double-bladed sword used by Imam Ali (A.S.).

Prime Minister Musavi and a group of high ranking military and civilian officials observed the main stage of the manuevers aboard *Alborz* destroyer Sunday. The maneuvers will end Tuesday.

Engineering Units on Abu Musa

LD291809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] The first combat engineering battalions of the Reconstruction Jihad, called the Helpers battalions, arrived in Hormuzgan Province yesterday and were deployed on Abu Musa Island. The first Helper battalion of the Reconstruction Jihad, equipped with engineering power plants, relief tools, and lightweight machinery, after deploying on Abu Musa Island, began building earthworks and defense fortifications on the region's islands.

Operations in Northern Iraq

LD290819 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0802 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, attention. In response to the latest wickedness of the Ba'thist enemy in the Persian Gulf and the chemical bombing of Kurdish villages in Iraq and their destruction, the mighty Islamic combatants launched a series of operations in support of the heroic uprising by the people in northern Iraq. As soon as we receive any details of the operations you will be informed.

Iraqi Garrison Destroyed

LD290916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] On the basis of information made available by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Islamic fighting units and the Iraqi Kurdish fighters have succeeded in destroying the Halabjah garrison and the area's Army center along the Halabjah axis. The Halabjah garrison, which was destroyed during the "Fath-7" operations was responsible for crushing an uprising by the area's oppressed people.

The Islamic combatants and the Iraqi Kurdish fighters succeeded in destroying other military installations along this axis, as well as the town's government buildings, including the communications center, bases in the town's suburbs, the security centers, and an antiriot unit which had recently arrived in the area in order to crush the uprising by the fighting Kurdish people. The town's tobacco center was also set on fire and suffered heavy damage.

Sayyid-Sadiq Bases Destroyed

LD291327 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 29, IRNA — Joint Iranian-Kurdish combatants took control of the Iraqi town of Sayyid Sadiq in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province for four hours in the course of the "Fath-7" operations launched in northern Iraq Sunday, according to latest reports reaching here Monday.

During the 4 hour period, said the reports the security organisation building, Ba'th party headquarters, telecommunication center, customs office, municipality, an asphalt factory and six defence bases in the town were set afire. 90 percent of Sayyid Sadiq garrison was also destroyed.

Some 60 Iraqi soldiers were killed in the garrison where 12 vehicles, command jeeps and five tanks were also set ablaze.

Garrison Near Sayyid Sadiq Hit

LD291726 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 29, IRNA — 'Dowara' Garrison, headquarters of Iraq's so-called popular army between Sayyid-Sadiq and Arbet towns was destroyed by 50 percent in continuation of "Fath-7" operations Sunday night. During the attack munitions depots of the garrison and 10 military vehicles were destroyed and 50 Iraqi officers and NCOs were killed and wounded.

Headquarters of an Iraqi artillery battalion in charge of shelling areas of Iran's city of Marivan and Iraq's town of Khan Zur was also [words indistinct].

Peshmerga in Halabjah

LD291936 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Bakhtaran, June 29, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas and Iranian combatants seized control of Iraqi town of Halabjah for seven hours in the course of "Fath-7" operations Sunday night, Ramadan headquarters of irregular warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reported here today.

During the thrust Muslim forces destroyed the important 'Zamqi' garrison in the town together with all its munitions depots.

Two tanks and a number of other vehicles were also destroyed and 40 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, said the headquarters.

Muslim combatants also demolished all government buildings in the town including information, military, disciplinary centers, military bases, and a petrol station.

Three Iraqi soldiers were also captured in the attack.

A Jordanian anti-riot unit had earlier entered the town to suppress the insurrection there.

Meanwhile, the headquarters said, during the second stage of operations in Halabjah, 90 percent of a so-called populer army center was destroyed with 20 enemy soldiers killed and scores of others wounded. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Counterattack Repulsed

LD291103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] According to a report from the Joint Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime regrouped their forces and launched a counterattack in the "Nasr-5" operational theater last night.

However, as the result of the vigilance of the IRGC ground forces the Iraqi forces were forced to flee after leaving behind hundreds of dead and wounded.

At the moment, the forces of Islam are pursuing the enemy and consolidating their hold in the region. While repulsing the enemy counterattack last night a number of enemy forces were captured by the forces of Islam.

Iraqi Chemical Attack

LD291201 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 29 Jun 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., June 29, IRNA — Iraq warplanes dropped chemical bombs around the north western Iranian city of Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province today, wounding some villagers and farmers. The Iraqi chemical bombardment, the second since Sunday, took place about 11:00 hours local time (07:30 GMT).

Iraqi warplanes had chemicals bombed four densely-populated locations in Sardasht Sunday afternoon, martyring 10 civilians and wounding 650 others, mainly women, children and old people.

Communique No 2,882

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[Text] Tehran, June 29, IRNA — Iranian jet-fighters heavily bombarded positions and concentration centers of Iraqi forces in operational regions of Northern Panjwin at 11:00, 12:00, 16:40 and 18:53 (07:30, 08:30, 13:10 and 15:23 GMT) Monday. The fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting considerable casualties and damage on the enemy forces, according to a military communique released here Monday.

The 2882nd Joint Staff Communique said that an Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Panjwin Operational Theatre at 17:50 (14:20 GMT) today.

The communique said the northwestern city of Marivan, Kordestan Province, was shelled by Iraqi long range artillery fire at 02:30 GMT yesterday, but the fire was silenced when Iraqi gun emplacements were pounded by Iranian artillery fire.

Muslim forces of Iran opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy troops, including the killing and wounding of 20 enemy soldiers and destruction of several vehicles in a southern front.

At least 10 Iraqi gun emplacements and several vehicles were destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants yesterday.

Iraqi troops sufferred heavy casualties and losses and their engineering activities were checked by Iranian artillery fire in Mehran and Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, yesterday.

Iranian navy gunboats intercepted and searched five ships in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but found no Iraq-destined cargo aboard them, the communique concluded.

MRD Approves Convening All Parties Conference

BK290850 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
22 Jun 87 pp 1,8

[Text] Karachi, June 21 — After a hectic and over stretched session of three days, the heads of the nine-party alliance, Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) has given a green signal to one of its component party, the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Pakistan [JUI] to go ahead with its proposal of convening an all parties conference.

The proposed all parties conference to be convened on the initiative of JUI would have the objective to 'further the aims and objectives of the MRD', the Central Convener of the Alliance Fatehyab Ali Khan told newsmen this afternoon at his residence.

Looking tired and fatigued the MRD convener and other associates said the decision to allow the JUI to convene all parties conference was taken with a consensus last night at the residence of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader Miss Benazir Bhutto where all party heads had assembled.

Answering a query, he said the aims and objectives are well enunciated in the charger of the MRD and as he understands the registration of political parties was a negation of the charger.

He said the MRD heads and the central executive committee has no objection to the initiative taken by the JUI Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman for the convening of such a conference.

As for further broadening the mass base, the MDR convener did not rule out the association of workers, peasants, professional groups in the struggle for restoration of democracy at any stage.

The another major decision, he announced was to observe July 5 as a black day on which protest rallies would be organised in all the capital cities of the four provinces and major urban centres to 'condemn the previous martial law and give a stern warning to any future adventurer who might be harbouring such designs.'

Similarly, he said August 14 would be another significant day for the MRD on which big public rallies would be held in all the major cities.

Describing the recent deliberations as the 'longest ever session' since the formation of MRD in 1981, Mr. Fatehyab said, the participants were of the unanimous view that there was need to further strengthen the alliance and to make it more active and dynamic.

He said the CEC [Central Executive Committee] and party heads also decided to chalk out a more elaborate programme of the MRD for which a committee to be known as 'programme committee' has been constituted with Iqbal Haider of Qaumi Mahaz Azadi as its chairman.

Regarding the local bodies election the MRD Convener said that no decision was taken. However the alliance was unanimous in its view that the government should not be allowed to go uncontested in any avenue.

He said a detailed strategy would be worked out after the government comes out with procedure and modalities for holding the local bodies elections.

As for the formation of a permanent structure of the alliance proposed by certain component parties, he said the report of a previous committee has been sent to all heads of the parties on which deliberations would be held in the next meeting of the Central Executive Committee.

Mr. Fatehyab also took exceptions to reports appearing in a section of Press about the proceedings of the meetings during the last three days which suggested that there was a sharp difference of opinion among the MRD leaders on many issues and that Malik Mohammad Qasim's report on the proposed all parties conference has been rejected.

In the first instance Malik Qasim's report on the proposed conference of all parties was not of recommendatory nature but an objective assessment on the possibility of convening such a moot and secondly there was no rejection, he declared.

In the same context he said the leaders of the Alliance are fully conscious of the designs and efforts being made by the government to cause split in the MRD but to the 'dismay and disappointment of all those who were looking for a break up for last many days, the MRD has emerged as a much stronger, consolidated and compact organisation while member leaders have now much more confidence in each other than ever before'

Mr Fatehyab also released ten resolutions in the sessions of party heads and Central Executive Committee which according to a rough estimate was spread well over 30 hours in last three days.

The major and exhaustive resolution is on the '1987-88 Federal Budget and the implications of its revised version' in which the MRD meeting has come out with a crisp comment, for the first time in Pakistan's history, the people had understood a Federal Budget better than the Finance Minister who introduced it.

The resolution gave a detailed assessment of the implications of the mounting non-development expenditure on the national economy which has sapped the vitality out of the socio-economic structure and government has been left with no choice but to burden the people with more indirect taxes which was done in the name of 'defence' this time but has misfired.

Strong dissatisfaction has also been expressed on the measures announced by the Prime Minister for withdrawal of Defence Tax and surcharges as no details have been provided as to how the cut of Rs 5 billion each in the non-development and development expenditure would be applied.

The resolution concludes, all this is happening because the present government is continuation of the Martial Law regime and has nothing to do with the interest of the people and the country and has therefore, appealed the people to rally round the MRD to launch a struggle to remove not only the present government but overthrow the entire system.

The other resolutions pertain to condemnation of the Sind and Federal Government for banning the entry of the MRD and NAP [National Awami Party] leaders Khan Abdul Wali Khan and his wife Begum Nasim Wali Khan in Karachi, concern over the continued plight of the drought-stricken people in Thar areas of Sind, demand from the government to provide one lakh rupees to the families of those who were killed mercilessly in the democratic struggle of 1983 and then in 1986. Through another resolution, the MRD has taken note of the unfortunate ethnic riots in Karachi and other parts of Sind and held Government responsible for the outbreak of such violence. The MRD has also spoken of the miseries of the low income people because of the galloping price hike and he also demanded the release of hundreds of political prisoners convicted by the 'infamous military courts.' Concern has also been expressed on the growing lawlessness in the country. Note has also been taken of the communal riots in Indian cities of Meerut and Delhi in which many Muslims were killed. The MRD has also demanded withdrawal of case against the leaders of NAP Pashtun khwa, Mr Mahmud Khan Achakzai.

'Speculation' Arises From U.S. General's Visit

BK251706 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jun 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Crist: Questions That Need Answers"]

[Text] General George B. Crist, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Central Command has come and gone, but there is still no official explanation about what he and his 15-member entourage were doing here for five days. Pictures of the American General with General Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo flashed in the media do not tell the story. They only arouse speculation. Just as high ranking Pakistani officials including the Prime Minister and General (Retd) Mohammed Arif do not just visit Florida — the Headquarters of CentCom — to see Disneyland, General Crist could hardly have been vacationing here in the heat and dust of June. Official silence on the purpose of the visit merely sharpen longstanding public doubts about what role Pakistan is expected to play in America's regional plans.

Pakistan is considered by the Pentagon as included in the area stipulated for operation of CentCom in time of contingency. Previously called the Rapid Deployment Force, CentCom was set up in January 1983. Its principal aims are to defend the West's oil interests in the Gulf, defend its allies in the region, and be deployed in the event of a superpower confrontation. Pakistan's role in CentCom remains shadowy as far as the public is concerned, inspite of repeated calls both from the public and Parliament for satisfactory explanations on this score.

The former U.S. envoy in Islamabad Dean Hinton is reported to have said in an interview (before his departure) that the arms Pakistan received from the U.S. was through CentCom. He also suggested that there was nothing unusual about the frequent visits to Pakistan of highranking U.S. military personnel. But this raises more questions than it answers. What is it that brought General Crist back to Pakistan within eight months of his last visit, which was in October 1986? Last time he was here during Secretary of State Caspar Weinberger's official visit to Pakistan, on which he was accompanied by senior Pentagon officials. Does the frequency of such visits, alongwith the frequent port calls made by U.S. carriers such as Kitty Hawk to Karachi mean a higher U.S. profile in Pakistan and a closer embrace of Washington by Islamabad? Does this imply greater Pakistani dependence onthe Americans? Does it also signify Pakistan will fall in line with U.S. objectives in the region, especially the Gulf, where, as recent developments show, the U.S. is looking toward substantially beefing up its military presence? These are questions in the public mind, which need prompt and adequate answers. Any effort to deal with these by pretending that Crist's visit is part of routine U.S.-Pakistan consultation will not do.